

Three accused of protection racket freed by DPP

Belfast 'hidden witnesses' case is dropped

From Paul Johnson in Belfast

The case against three Belfast men accused of running protection rackets was dropped yesterday on the orders of the Director of Public Prosecutions when he became aware that evidence against the trio was being provided by elaborately disguised and anonymous witnesses.

A total of 33 charges, including obtaining money through menaces, and firearms offences, were withdrawn at the start of the second day of the hearing at Belfast magistrates court.

One of the defendants, James Craig, aged 43, said after walking free: "It was a complete mockery of justice. They wheeled the witnesses in like Daleks. We have been set free because everybody realised what a farce it was."

On Monday, five crown witnesses appeared in the courtroom one after the other clad in gloves, hooded anoraks and woolen balaclavas. They sat with their backs to the defendants, spoke in muffled tones, refused to identify themselves and would not say who they worked for or on which building sites the protection money was allegedly extorted.

The prosecution explained that the steps were necessary because the witnesses, all of them company directors, were

in fear for their lives. The magistrates, Mr James Tweed, decided to allow the proceedings to continue, although he expressed reservations.

Disguises have been allowed in Northern Ireland courts on previous occasions to protect witnesses, but even by the standards of Ulster this was seen by many as a bizarre performance.

Monday's proceedings and the resulting publicity seem to have brought the case to the attention of the DPP.

A prosecution lawyer told the court yesterday: "Having considered the proceedings and the fact that no witness felt safe to provide his name, the DPP has concluded that the prosecution cannot ask for the return for trial of any of the defendants on any of the charges against them."

He also said that with Mr Craig were David Fee, 31, and William Quee, 28.

Mr Craig is a well-known figure in Northern Ireland. He has claimed to have been held for questioning by the Royal Ulster Constabulary on 21 occasions, and to have spent a total of two years in gaol on charges which were not proven in court.

He also claims that during one period of detention he became the commander of the Ulster Defence Association, a legal, Protestant paramilitary organisation inside the Maze prison.

Head start for the holocaust

By Andrew Vaitch

Medical Correspondent
THE RISKS of human error triggering a nuclear war are unacceptably high, Britain's leading psychologists warned yesterday. The Government has underestimated the danger, they said. They urged ministers to publish details of failures in nuclear weapon systems.

The warning came at the launching of the British Psychological Society's report on nuclear war, written by Dr James Thompson, senior lecturer at the Middlesex Hospital medical school, London.

It condemns the Government's civil defence plans, and suggests that arms negotiators set up problem-solving workshops to break down entrenched positions.

The US Defence Department had admitted to 31 major nuclear accidents by 1981. Professor James Reason, head of psychology at Manchester University, pointed out. Independent Swedish research had found

112 such accidents in western forces before 1977. The US Congress had reported that 5,000 service personnel a year were removed from nuclear weapons duties because of alcohol or drug abuse, criminal activities, negligence, or mental problems.

Dr Thompson has gained access to court martial papers of two US servicemen convicted of drugs offences at Holy Loch. One, a nuclear weapons guard, had marijuana on board ship. Another, a fireman on the USS Holland, had a ship was using and trading in LSD, cocaine, and amphetamines.

As weapons control systems become more complex, human error becomes more likely, particularly when operators are working under stress.

Yet the nuclear power plant accidents at Three Mile Island and elsewhere show that human factors are not sufficiently taken into account by systems designers.

Techniques used by engineers and the military to calculate error probabilities result in "spurious figures," Professor Reason said.

"If you are to predict error you have to start from within the individual. We have to do more sensible things to prevent dangerous errors. To do that, the Government must give access to the data on error failure rates. We need to know what kind of errors people make and under what conditions they make them."

Dr Thompson describes six symptoms of what he calls "Group Think" that throw some light on the conduct of British and American in the Falklands war: An illusion of invulnerability; collective attempts to ignore or rationalise information challenging assumptions; an unquestioning belief in the group's morality; stereotyping the enemy as too evil for negotiations or too stupid to be a threat; a shared illusion of unanimity; and the appearance of self-appointed mind-guards to protect the group from adverse information.

The society's vice president Dr Hella Beloff, of Edinburgh University said that the government's civil defence plans, which assume that people will survive if they stay at home and take shelter — were based on misconceptions about human behaviour.

Research had shown that 40 per cent of Londoners would flee to the country in the mistaken belief that it would be safer, she said. Panic would not be the problem.

It was more likely that survivors of the initial attack would be dazed, bewildered, and apathetic — they would function in a rigid mechanical fashion.

Psychological Aspects of Nuclear War, by Dr James Thompson, published by the British Psychological Society and John Wiley, price £5.95.



Teachers campaign outside the Education Secretary Sir Keith Joseph's home next to their school in Chelsea, London. The staff from Park Walk primary delivered a letter yesterday protesting about their 4 per cent pay offer. They were taking part in a three day strike affecting two London boroughs. Picture by Martin Argles.

Schools draw up pay activists' register

By Penny Choriton

Hereford and Worcester County Council is to compile a list of teachers who refuse to cover for colleagues or to run out-of-hours activities as part of their campaign for a 12 per cent pay rise.

The news brought an angry reaction from the National Union of Teachers which is already challenging six education authorities in the High Court for deducting pay from those refusing to cover. It immediately threatened to treat every "listing" as a disciplinary action.

Hereford and Worcester said

the register being drawn up by heads would include teachers refusing to stand in for absent colleagues and those withdrawing from school meals supervision, staff meetings and parent events.

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A spokesman said that the council was protecting its position in view of the court cases pending against the other local authorities. So far, Hereford and Worcester had not deducted pay for periods of "no cover."

The inclusion of teachers boycotting school clubs was revealed by the local branch of the Professional Association of Teachers, the union which refuses to strike.

The Association of University Teachers meets today at a special pay conference. It is aiming for 22 per cent to restore average salaries of its 48,000 members to the levels of 1979 and plans a day of action on April 24.

The universities have offered their 20,000 manual and ancillary workers a £4.80 a week flat rate increase, representing

probably the biggest percentage offer in the public sector in the current round. It means a 6.71 per cent rise for 13,000 on the lowest grade while 400 on the top grade will get 5.5 per cent. If it is accepted the new rates will range from £73.30 to £92 a week.

Members of the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education are also meeting this week to discuss how to step up their pay campaign after the failure of management to increase its 4 per cent offer in the Burnham committee last week.

Accident verdicts on family anger tenants

By Susan Tirbitt

The deaths from hypothermia of a woman and her two children who were overcome by fumes from a defective gas boiler, were accidental, the Southwark coroner recorded last night. Neighbours of the dead family shouted protests as the verdicts were recorded.

The inquest jury returned the verdict on Helen Smith, aged 31, her daughter Natasha, aged 11, and son Michael, aged 13, all of Walworth, south London, after being directed by the coroner that that was the only one open to them.

Mr Arthur Gordon Davies, the Southwark coroner, rejected pleas from Mr Timothy Greene, counsel for the dead family, that verdicts of lack of care, unlawful homicide or criminal negligence were also possible because of evidence of culpable disregard.

The coroner said: "I do not consider there has been any such gross criminal negligence, such utter and complete disregard for safety and people, as to justify returning any other verdict than accidental deaths."

He said it should be laid down that boilers are serviced every year on the responsibility of those who had installed them.

Mr Greene said he had been instructed by Mrs Smith's

mother to issue writs for negligence against Southwark Council.

Mrs Smith, a divorcee from Trinidad, and her daughter Natasha, were found dead on February 1 in their council maisonette. Death was caused by hypothermia due to carbon monoxide poisoning.

Her son Michael, who was found unconscious with them, died in St Thomas's hospital two days later.

Officials of South Eastern Gas and Southwark Council said that they had been notified of faults with the boiler 13 times over 15 months before the deaths. Repairs had been carried out eight times.

Witnesses from the council's engineering department, the boiler's manufacturer and an independent consulting firm all testified to its potentially lethal condition when tested.

Mr John Synnuck, head of the council's housing management services, said there was an average of about three or four complaints a week about heating faults from the Dorrington Grove estate. Recommendations from the investigation he chaired after the deaths included immediate servicing of central heating appliances and changing from vented to balanced flue systems as soon as possible.

Body may yield war gas clue

By Seumas Milne

A post mortem examination due to be carried out today on an Iranian soldier who died in a London hospital yesterday could establish whether poison gas is being used in the Iraq-Iran war.

The Iranian soldier was one of nine who were flown into Britain on Thursday and admitted to the private hospital of St John and St Elizabeth early on Friday.

But the hospital director, Mr Stuart Twadell, said that the examination might not be able to prove conclusively whether the soldier had been suffering from the effects of poison gas.

When the war casualties were first examined, the hospital announced that eight of them were suffering from moderate burns. But on Sunday the condition of two deteriorated rapidly.

One of the two died at St Mary's, and the other was transferred to the Wellington Hospital where he is in intensive care with serious chest problems.

A spokesman at the Iranian embassy said that casualties had also been flown to West Germany, Austria and Belgium.

Ministry police studying claim of fraud at Dowty

By Richard Norton-Taylor

Ministry of Defence police are investigating the allegations of fraud in the engineering and aerospace group, Dowty, Mr John Lee, junior minister responsible for arms procurement, told the Commons yesterday.

The allegations have been made by a former employee, Mr Burgess Cooper, who says he was sacked after threatening to reveal details of company practices.

He said that an MoD repair contract provided for the employment of 38 people, but only 33 were engaged on it.

The other five, including himself, were paid by the MoD but did other commercial work for the company. Mr Cooper says he was transferred to the MoD payroll in 1982. The company told him it was to avoid redundancy. He plans to take his dismissal to an industrial tribunal.

The ministry yesterday also disclosed that it was still engaged in talks with Aish, the Poole-based electrical company, about overpayments on past contracts. The company has already agreed to repay £250,000.

The Aish contracts came to light after Mr Jim Smith, a former director of the company, was sacked following his refusal to ratify the accounts. The company argued that he was made redundant because of the need to cut costs.

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'Mother's attack' blamed for girl's death

By Sarah Beeley

A man accused of murdering a four-year-old girl who died last year of pneumonia and grossly underweight, of punches to the head, said yesterday at his trial in the Old Bailey that his common-law wife, the child's mother, was responsible for the death.

Maurice Beckford, aged 25, a scaffolder from Kensal Rise, north London, who denies murder but has admitted two charges of cruelty and two of assault causing actual bodily harm, said that Jasmine's mother, Beverley Lorrington, aged 24, had gone into the bedroom the child shared with her younger sister Louise the night before she died.

He said: Beverley went into the room and hit her. I saw Beverley with her hands around Jasmine's neck. She was strangling her. I pulled her off and said: "What are you trying to do?" She turned around and said: "She's just driving us both crazy."

Cross-examined by Mr John Gorman QC, counsel for Lorrington, Beckford said he thought this alleged treatment led to Jasmine's death the next day, July 5 last year.

Beckford claimed that he had confessed to the murder to the police, saying such things as "I just want to die" and "Just throw away the key" because he wanted to take the blame. He said he decided to tell the truth of what happened when Beverley got bail, left prison, and ceased to answer his letters.

He said: "After me telling her to say it was me, she turned round and cut me off as if I wasn't there."

Mr Kenneth Richardson, cross-examining for the prosecution, said there were no signs of strangulation on the child's body. Beckford maintained that he had only ever hit Jasmine on the face and hands and had never punched her.

He denied that he loved Jasmine less than Louise, who was his own daughter. He said: "I loved Jasmine as much, even a bit more, than Louise."

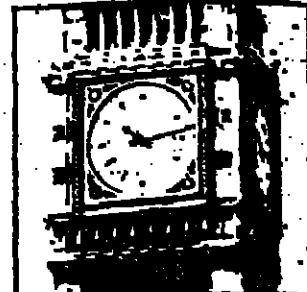
Beckford said he had taken a day off work to look after Jasmine on the day she died. He said: "I told her to go to bed to clean it. I rolled a marijuana joint, he saw the child lying on the cushion and noticed something wrong with her eyes."

"The black bit was gone," he said. He told the court he was frightened and "tried to revive her, feeling her pulse, checking her mouth and even attempting to give her an electric shock to restart her heart."

He did not think of calling a doctor.

Lorrington yesterday changed her plea from not guilty to two charges of wilful neglect to guilty and the Common Sergeant Judge Thomas Pigg QC, discharged the jury from giving a verdict on the third charge of wilful neglect.

The trial continues.



David McKie

A rather stately cuckoo waltz

THE mellifluous sound of the cuckoo from a dozen Labour throats greeted the Prime Minister when she rose to the Commons yesterday to confront a list of 129 questions, a mere 125 of which asked her to list her engagements for the day.

The birdsong was in honour of the weekend speech in which she declared of some of the Government's recent critics that without the odd cuckoo it wouldn't be spring.

Was that really the way — asked Labour's Derek Fatchett, who was first to be asked for a Premier to speak about her critics; especially when she was supposed to be in to reconciliation nowadays?

And what of the dissidents on her own benches: were they cuckoo? No, cuckoos here, Mrs Thatcher assured him. "We have the occasional grouse but nothing else."

As it happened, one occasional grouse was conspicuously visible: a few places away as she spoke: the Member for Old Bexley, Mr Heath. Eric Heffer (Labour, Walton) tried to embarrass Mrs Thatcher by reminding her of some of the nasty things Old Bexley had been saying about the budget.

Mr Lawson's efforts had been well received, she said, with some very nice majorities at the end of it.

She'd have said much the same, no doubt, even if the backbenchers had spent the past few days tearing Nigel Lawson limb from limb.

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But, in fact, they can both feel reasonably pleased with the pattern of the last week's debate, since it seemed on the face of it to confirm the Whips' Office judgment that though the dissidents can call on some headline pulling heavyweights, there's not much sign of equivalent activity among the rank and file.

There were 25 backbench speeches in four days of debate: eight hostile, 15 approving, one abstention. Five of the critics belonged to that formidable party within a party, Privy Counsellors Against the Budget (PCAB: Ted Heath, Ian Gilmour, Jim Prior (critical, but not too critical, he said), Francis Pym, and in a declaration, the former 1922 Committee chairman, Edward du Caine.

Their three outsiders were relative old timers too: David Knox is in his fifth Parliament, Julian Critchley in his sixth and Charles Morrison in his eighth.

Mr Critchley's speech, incidentally, in which he declared at one point that the Chancellor, once a man of substance, was now seen to be a man of straw, was subsequently described by the Treasury Minister of State, Barony Hayhoe, as "a parliamentary gem of wit and brilliance." No doubt he'll be keeping out of Nigel's way for a day or two.

The view among newer members was much more approving. George Walden, the super-bright ex-diplomat from Buckingham, thought the Budget "excellent." Edwin Currie, the eager if sometimes over-the-top member for Derbyshire South, called it "wise, workmanlike, and worthwhile." The general opinion seemed to be that within severe constraints, Nigel had done pretty well.

What was impressively absent this time was the sort of urgent, troubled testimony based on day to day constituency observation with which a new MP, Alistair Burt (Bury, North) lit up a Queen's Speech debate in November.

The geography may have had something to do with that. Not one Conservative backbencher from the North West or North got up to the debate. (Mr Burt, who might once have done so, is now a PPS, and married).

There were two Tory speakers from Scotland, Yorkshire, none from Wales.

But only three came from marginal seats. Nine of those who defended the Chancellor are cushioned by majorities of 20 per cent or more.

It is on the others who, though still apprehensive, preferred to keep silent this time, that the Chancellor's fate may ultimately depend. His budget does indeed bring to the fore the hopes and the hopes, they will celebrate all the way to the polling booths. If not, there could be far warmer endorsement from PCAB's lonely light next time the Chancellor performs.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Police hurt in attack

TWO policemen were hurt, windows smashed, and two patrol cars damaged late on Monday night in the Derbyshire pit village of Shirebrook.

Five men, four of them miners, were arrested. Four are to appear before Chesterfield magistrates today charged with criminal damage.

Shirebrook police station was attacked several times shortly before midnight on Monday and many windows were broken.

A police spokesman said: "We are keeping an open mind about the motives."

Police said that about eight people were involved in the violence, in which a lump of concrete was hurled through the windscreen of one patrol car and the headlights of a second were kicked in and the bodywork dented.

The first car was attacked in the station car park and the second when it arrived after the alarm was raised. Two officers received bruises.

Court supports fugitive's release

IRELAND'S Supreme Court agreed yesterday that the High Court had been right to release Mr Robert Trimbole. It said he had been wrongly arrested under the republic's anti-terrorist laws in October.

The High Court had upheld an order for extradition to Australia on charges of murder and smuggling heroin but said he was being wrongly arrested under the republic's anti-terrorist laws in October.

PC banned from soccer matches



PC William Ross (above), aged 23, was remanded on bail by Horseferry Road magistrates yesterday charged with using threatening behaviour at the Chelsea v. Sunderland Milk Cup tie at Stamford Bridge on March 4.

Ross, of Trenchard House, Broadwick Street, Soho, London, who denied the charge, was banned from football matches as a condition of bail. He is based at Rochester Row police station, Victoria.

Civil servants delay action

THE two biggest Civil Service unions have put back plans for industrial action by a fortnight. The Society of Civil and Public Servants, which has a secret ballot mandate for a one-day stoppage on Monday followed by selective strikes, has moved the start of the programme to April 15.

The Civil and Public Services Association has called off its membership consultation on an April 1 strike and will hold a secret ballot for action on April 15.

Sun back but threat to unions remains

By Patrick Wintour

PUBLICATION of the Sun resumed last night after seven hours of talks resolved the week-long dispute in its London machine room. However, its owners, News Group Newspapers, have not abandoned plans to seek damages against the two print unions, Sogat '82 and the National Graphical Association.

News Group Newspapers claims they backed a strike which had been called without a secret ballot, which the employers say is required under the Trade Union Act 1984.

More than 30 million copies of the Sun have been lost and both unions could be liable for damages of up to £250,000.

Sogat claims that a ballot was not held because any action in the machine room did not break employment contracts. Ms Brenda Dean, Sogat's general secretary-elect, said machine room men were locked out by management and that the union was not liable since it did not make the strike official.

Mr Justice Stuart-Smith yesterday adjourned a Sogat application to have an injunction lifted after he heard that the sides had reached a settlement. The injunction ordered the two unions to withdraw any official backing for the strike.

Management and unions are to hold a joint inquiry into the high incidence of plate breaks in the machine room. Management has also agreed to give back pay to production staff not in the machine room who were effectively locked out during the dispute. Sogat gave a guarantee of normal working.

The dispute started after machine room members introduced a new method of tightening the plates which involved stopping production for 15 minutes. The union said antiquated machinery was causing plate breaks and threatening safety. The management considered the change as an unacceptable interference with normal production.

Mr Bruce Matthews, NGN managing director, felt the dispute centred on Sogat's objections to the suspension of talks on transferring production from Fleet Street to Tower Hamlets, east London.

Rosemary Collins adds: Mr Robert Maxwell yesterday appointed a former civil servant, Sir William Wood, aged 68, to act as Mirror Group "ombudsman."

He will investigate complaints by readers who believe they have been treated unfairly by the group's newspapers.

Human rights group backs Irish torture claim

By Paul Keel

Amnesty International is calling on the Northern Ireland Office to publish the findings of an inquiry into allegations by a Derry man that he was tortured by police at the Castlereagh detention centre in Belfast.

Mr Paul Caruana, a 23-year-old Catholic from the Creggan estate, has complained that his

head was forced between his legs and that plastic bags were put over his head while he was being held under the Prevention of Terrorism Act last August.

Mr David Laucht, of Amnesty International, said it was calling on the British Government to do what it asked other governments to do in cases of alleged torture: to hold an impartial investigation and to publish the results.

He said yesterday that the Northern Ireland Office had put over his head while he was being held under the Prevention of Terrorism Act last August.

Mr Laucht stressed that the organisation had no reason to suspect that there was systematic violence to detainees at Castlereagh — the main detention centre in Northern Ireland for terrorist suspects —

but that it was concerned whether the recommendations of the Bennett report were being observed.

After complaints of ill-treatment at Castlereagh by Amnesty International in 1978, Judge Harry Berneer QC recommended that closed-circuit television should be used in interview rooms, that detainees should have access to a solicitor after 48 hours and that medical examinations should be available.

150-200

Comment on Ulster future puzzles Haughey

By Joe Joyce and Paul Johnson

Dr. Garret FitzGerald, the Irish Prime Minister, was accused yesterday of creating speculation about the future of Northern Ireland with his reference in London last week to the search for a "novel political structure."

Mr. Charles Haughey, leader of the Opposition in the Dáil, demanded to know in an exchange in the Dáil whether Dr. FitzGerald was trying to hype or damp down expectations.

Mr. Haughey was speaking after Dr. FitzGerald had said that the speculation of a breakthrough in Anglo-Irish talks was "uninspired."

The speculation has followed the meeting in Dublin last week between Dr. FitzGerald and two British ministers, the Foreign Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, and the Northern Ireland Secretary, Mr. Douglas Hurd.

The Rev. Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionist Party, last night demanded a written pledge from Mrs. Thatcher that talks were not taking place between London and Dublin on the future of Northern Ireland.

If such a guarantee was not forthcoming, he said, then the DUP would withdraw from a new round of internal talks set up by the Government and aimed at bringing together the province's constitutional parties.

Mr. Paisley told a special session of the Northern Ireland Assembly that he had been given verbal assurance by a junior Northern Ireland Office minister that the constitutional position of Ulster Unionists was not being undermined.

This was not enough, he said, a written pledge authorised by Mrs. Thatcher and signed by Mr. Hurd was necessary. "We will not be pawns in any London/Dublin process. We are not prepared to stand back and see our position prejudiced," he added.

Mr. Haughey's cynicism at the hurry of reported developments is shared by many observers in Dublin. The Irish government spent much of last year raising expectations about imminent developments only to see its hopes shattered at November's summit meeting at Chequers.

Most of the elements now reported to be part of a new initiative have been doing the rounds in Dublin for more than a year.

Dr. FitzGerald's caution about the outcome of the current talks was mirrored by Sir Geoffrey who told the Irish Times that it would be some time before it was known if the talks had practical results.

He added that he would favour financial backing from the EEC and the United States for any agreement on Northern Ireland that arose out of the discussions.

Peter Jenkins, page 21

Compensation for death from lung cancer

£120,000 paid to family of dead Sellafield worker

By David Rose and Richard Norton-Taylor

Compensation of £120,000 has been paid to the family of a radiation worker at the Sellafield plant in Cumbria who died in 1976 from lung cancer.

The man — whose identity has not been disclosed — received slightly more than half the maximum safe dose of radiation prescribed by international limits.

The award is the third payment to be made under the agreement reached in 1982 between British Nuclear Fuels Ltd, Sellafield's operators, and trade unions at the plant.

As in previous cases, few details of the dead man's occupation or the basis for the size of the settlement have been released.

He worked for 23 years as a foreman at the Calder Hall section of the Sellafield (then Windscale) site, where weapons grade plutonium is produced for Britain's military programme. He was treated for tuberculosis after a medical check-up organised by BNFL, but died months later of lung cancer.

Industry and Whitehall sources said yesterday that the levels of radiation exposure were only one aspect of the

evidence considered by the adjudicating panel set up under the 1982 agreement.

Nevertheless, the man had received only 60 rems during his years in the industry, while the internationally-agreed limit enforced in the British nuclear industry by the National Radiological Protection Board would have allowed a total exposure of 115 rems.

Asked yesterday whether this dose level and the size of the settlement constituted an admission that these levels — as critics of the industry have claimed — are too high, BNFL said: "The payment did not reflect the level of radiation."

A spokesman added that the sum was a "full sum payment" which was calculated to be the equivalent of what a court would award if radiation had been judged to be the main cause of the man's death.

In reaching this decision it had been thought important to take into account the man's age, 45, and the fact that he had not smoked for many years.

One of the scheme's administrators conceded last night that BNFL in general wanted to pay out compensation when "about half" the maximum recommended safe radiation dose had been absorbed. This was evidence of the company's

generosity, he said, and should be considered quite separately from the controversy over what dose should be viewed as "safe."

The scheme had been designed to be "overly generous" in order to avoid the payment of legal costs, which could reduce the amount spent by the company. Avoiding legal action also had the advantage of securing more favourable publicity, he said.

Sources within the industry conceded that the case would fuel the controversy over the radiation limits. There are at least a further 12 cases under detailed consideration for possible compensation payments, BNFL confirmed, while another 83 have so far been rejected by the machinery set up by the 1982 agreement.

The case was first brought to the man's union, the Institution of Professional Civil Servants, by his widow.

The two previous payments under the agreement were made last year for £200,000 and £25,000. Previous out-of-court settlements before the scheme was introduced included a payment of £87,000 in 1981.

BNFL said yesterday that the size of the latest award was also affected by the man's status as a member of management staff.



Stars and family at Redgrave funeral

LADY Redgrave with daughters Lynn and Vanessa examine flowers at the funeral of her husband, Sir Michael Redgrave, yesterday at Morlake Crematorium in London (left).

With the actor's son, Corin, and several grandchildren, they joined film and stage stars for the service in the crematorium chapel. Those present included Sir Alec Guinness, Christopher Reeve, Maggie Smith and Yehudi Menuhin.

Sir Michael died last Thursday, a day after his 77th birthday, following a long illness with Parkinson's disease. His coffin, covered in red roses and white lilies, supported pictures of the actor in three of his most famous roles — Shakespeare's King Lear, Antony from Antony and Cleopatra, and Chekov's Uncle Vanya.

At the service, Sir Michael's granddaughter, the actress Natasha Richardson, gave a reading from A Winter's Tale. A week before his death Sir Michael saw her play Ophelia in a production of Hamlet.

Tory MP gives lead in benefit cut protest

By David Hencke, Social Services Correspondent

Mr. Andrew Bowden, Conservative MP for Brighton, Kemptown yesterday tabled a Commons motion calling on the Department of Health and Social Security to withdraw cuts in housing benefit of up to £5.47 a week for tenants in 49 authorities until the Government publishes the results of its social security review.

About 110,000 tenants in "high rent" areas are due to suffer the cuts from next Monday.

His motion was being circulated to 70 MPs — mainly Conservative backbenchers — whose constituents are threatened.

On March 5, the DESS outlined the authorities affected, three of which — Brighton, Guildford, and Windsor and Maidenhead — lose subsidies for all council and private tenants.

Another 17 lose subsidies for council tenants, 22 for housing association and private tenants and the remaining seven authorities for sheltered accommodation for the elderly and handicapped.

The total savings will be £6 million out of a housing benefit budget totalling £4 billion.

Minister gets four years for mutilating corpses

A Methodist minister who mutilated corpses awaiting burial was jailed for four years yesterday. Emyr Owen, aged 66 of Macthion Close, Croydon, Surrey, had "abused the trust of the living just as you dishonoured the dead," Mr. Justice Evans said at Chester Crown Court.

Owen admitted mutilating corpses between April 1976 and December 1984 and was jailed for 24 years concurrently on each.

He also admitted threatening to murder the four-year-old granddaughter of a local woman and was sentenced to a consecutive 18 months. The judge directed that the girl should not be identified.

Mr. Huw Daniel, prosecuting, said Owen was a homosexual and had been minister of Bethel Chapel, Tywyn, since April, 1976.

His crimes came to light when police investigated an anonymous letter received by an elderly woman with an all-time husband which contained a threat to murder one of her grandchildren. "It is a letter of a thoroughly abusive, unpleasant nature with extensive use of abusive language," Mr. Daniel said.

Detective Constable Gwyn Roberts, who was highly commended by the judge, noticed that handwriting on a copy of the Bible which Owen was given to a local farmer was the same as that in the letter.



Emyr Owen — threatened to murder girl

The detective searched Owen's house and found a photograph of a man's severed genitals.

Owen told police he had no intention of harming the granddaughter. "I am at a total loss why I sent these letters," he said in a statement.

He admitted mutilating three bodies. "He told police he had long nursed a fantasy about the cutting off of male genitalia," said Mr. Daniel. "He told them he had two personalities, one the caring priest and another known as Emyr Ddrwg, or Emyr the Bad."

Dr. William Lawson, senior psychiatrist at Risley remand centre, near Warrington, Cheshire, said: "There is no evidence of mental illness or disorder as such."

'Royal' film withdrawn

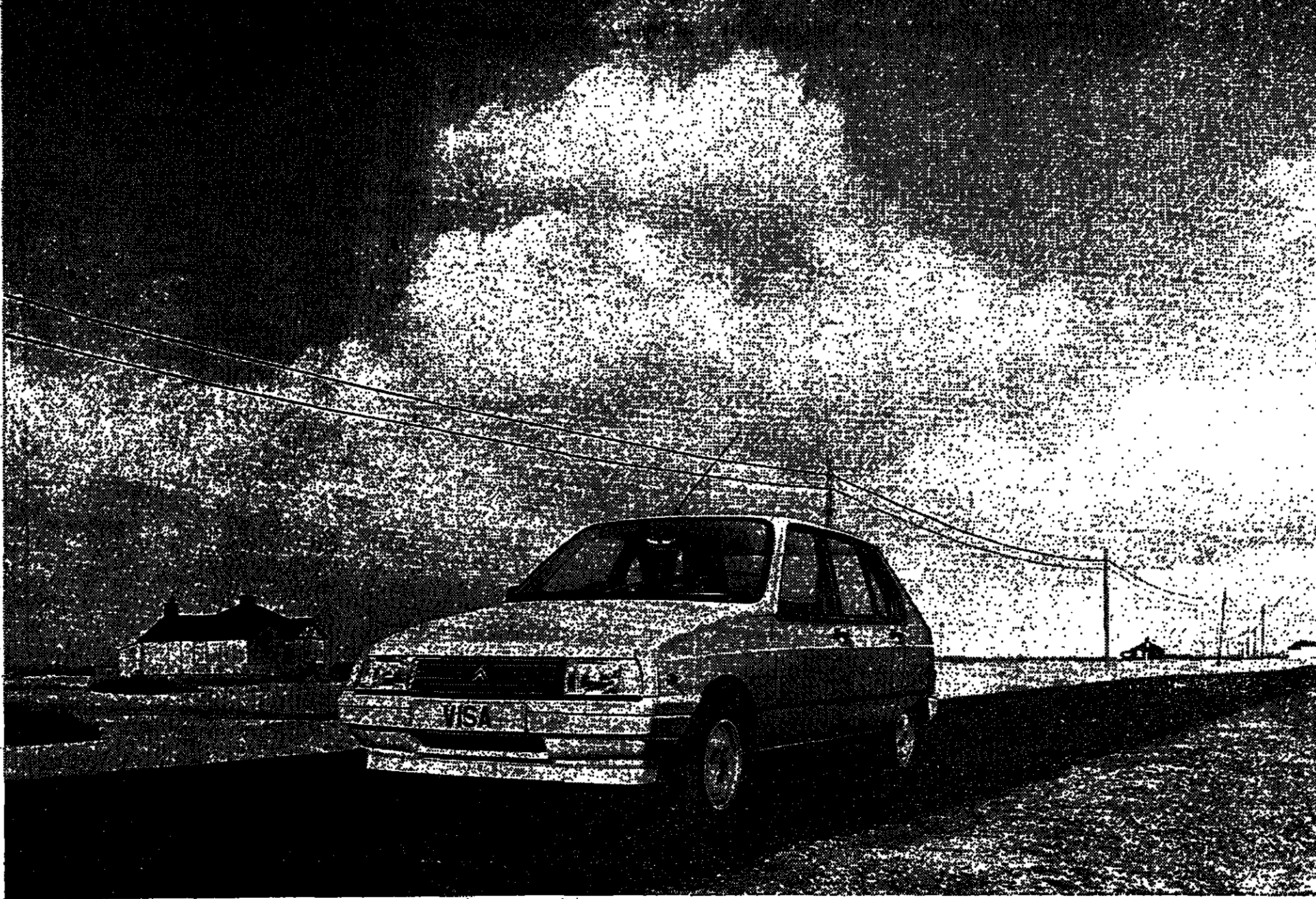
PLANS to televise a film about the romance of the Prince and Princess of Wales have been scrapped following a request from the Independent Broadcasting Authority. West Television South, based in Plymouth, announced last week that it would show the American-made film on Easter by the BBC despite a decision by the commercial and the rest of the network not to show it. The film was an old-fashioned love

story" done in "beautiful taste."

The IBA began its attempt in the Court of Appeal yesterday to overturn a ruling won by Mrs. Mary Whitehouse over the way it went about allowing the controversial royal film. Scum to be screened in 1983.

Last year the High Court ruled that the decision on whether to show the film should have been referred to members of the authority. The hearing continues today.

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Man of peace to quit Ulster

From Paul Johnson in Belfast

A PRESBYTERIAN minister who provoked trouble from hardline Protestants over his attempts to forge better links with Catholics is to leave Northern Ireland.

The Reverend David Armstrong, of the First Limavady Church, County Londonderry, who is to take up an appointment in Oxford in May, refused to comment yesterday.

Mr Armstrong, aged 36, emerged as a controversial character in the eyes of religious reactionaries during Christmas 1983, when he exchanged greetings with Father Kevin Mullan, who has a church only yards away from his own.

The situation is believed to have reached a head recently when Mr Armstrong went on a lecture tour of the United States with Father Mullan.

It has been suggested that his wife, June, was subjected to abusive telephone calls, that she and her four children were sent to Coventry by some particularly fervent locals and that a campaign amounting to harassment had built up.

After the exchange in Christmas 1983, the elders of the First Limavady Church called for Mr Armstrong's removal, but this was later reversed.

Worse was to come, however, after Mr Armstrong visited the Catholic church to attend midnight Mass last Christmas Eve. On Christmas day, three Presbyterian ministers and about 40 of their flock picketed his church.

The protest ended with fighting and allegations that rival Christians kicked and punched each other inside the church.

The Reverend Wesley McDowell, a local Free Presbyterian minister who organised that protest, said later: "A man shows no courage in compromising what does not belong to him — God's truth."

As a minister of the Gospel, it is my calling to preach and defend the truth — not to water it down in order to accommodate a religion that is unbiblical, unholy and repugnant to God."

Mr Armstrong, a native of Belfast who was ordained in 1975, was appointed minister at Limavady in July, 1982. He served as chaplain at the nearby Magilligan Prison.



The Reverend David Armstrong—"driven out by bigotry."

College union president's election to be examined by NUS

NF student leader inquiry

By Andrew Monear Education Staff

An investigation has been ordered into the affairs of a college students' union whose president confirmed yesterday that she is a member of the National Front.

The president — Miss Jayne Thistlewhite, who has adopted the name J. J. Buford — is taught by Mr Andrew Brown, the former National Front chairman, who is a lecturer at her college.

Her election to the post at Harrogate College of Further

Education, North Yorkshire, is to be the subject of an inquiry called yesterday by Mr Phil Woolas, president of the National Union of Students.

The NUS leadership has acted swiftly to deal with the new case involving a student holding NF membership. Last December, the executive was censured over its response to the protest campaign against the National Front activist, Patrick Harrington, a student at the Polytechnic of North London.

One possibility is that the Harrogate college student body could be expelled from the

national union, which has previously unsuccessfully campaigned for the removal of Mr Woolas.

Miss Buford, aged 18, yesterday strongly denied that her political views had been influenced in any way by Mr Brown.

She said: "I joined four years ago when I was 14. It has got nothing to do with any teacher in the college."

The area NUS are annoyed with because they would not let our union be used for their own political obsessions."

Miss Buford said that there was hardly any political activ-

ity in the college union and there had been no circulation of rightwing or National Front literature.

She was elected last October after a period when the college union had become moribund. The NUS, which has a policy of denying a platform to known racists, wants to know whether she declared her political colours at the time of her election.

Mr Woolas said: "What I will do is try to find out how it is that she came to be president. I don't believe that the students knew she was a National Front member."

Tory militants are routed in student poll

By Andrew Monear

Mr Phil Woolas, a supporter of the Labour leader, Mr Neil Kinnock, was comfortably re-elected president of the National Union of Students yesterday in a vote that gave no comfort to his Conservative opponents.

The results revealed how serious Tory support has been diminished by the antics of some factions of the Federation of Conservative Students.

Even in the election hustings at the NUS conference in Blackpool yesterday, the official FCS candidates continued

to heap insults and invective on their fellow delegates.

They failed to provoke a reaction other than laughter and derisive applause. The three FCS candidates polled seven votes between them.

"We put on your patriotic front" said Mr Guy Roberts, a Leeds university student in his hustings address. "We wish to destroy the NUS. It is a seab union, forcing students in to membership: NUS makes students vomit."

The more extreme members of the FCS, which had originally put forward 10 candi-

dates but finally fielded only three, have made no secret of their contempt for the union.

Their stance apparently dented the chances of the main Conservative contender for president, who was pushed in to fourth place behind a Socialist Workers Party candidate and an independent anarchist.

Christopher Davies, of University College Cardiff, who is a member of the moderate Conservative Student Unionists and an outspoken critic of the militant leadership of FCS, polled only 57 of the 701 votes cast.

Mr Woolas, aged 25, now starts a second year as leading representative of 1.4 million students. His outright victory was more emphatic than his first year ago, which went to a third stage of balloting.

He said yesterday: "Wearing my Labour Party hat, the way the FCS goes on suits me down to the ground. Quite clearly, they are getting smashed. Five years ago there had been Conservative presidents at 25 to 30 universities, today there are only two throughout the country, both opposed to FCS policies."

Lecturers angered by grant pessimism

By John Fairhall Education Editor

Sir Peter Swinnerton-Dyer, the chairman of the University Grants Committee, was yesterday accused of being "totally and complacently pessimistic" about the future of the university system.

The attack came from the general secretary of the Association of University Teachers, Miss Diana Warwick, after Sir Peter predicted a run-down of university funding for the rest of the decade.

In a speech to a joint meeting of the Committee and the Vice-Chancellors Committee on March 21, Sir Peter said the UGC had put the case for level funding of universities to the Government, but that in his judgement that case has been rejected.

He argued that the forthcoming Green Paper issued by the Government would deal with policy issues separate from finance.

He said that the universities would be held 2 per cent a year below inflation until the best way to cope with these continuing cuts would be the closure of university departments.

If that turned out to be impracticable, then the likely consequence would be closure of entire universities, said Sir Peter. "He should be fighting the universities' corner, instead of apparently just accepting as inevitable the run-down."

Mr Maurice Shock, chairman of the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals, said Sir

Peter had painted a very bleak picture for the universities, with funding prospects "like a lingering and painful terminal illness."

Mr Shock went on: "We do not accept there is a case for closures, particularly now, when the country needs more than ever a well-educated, highly-skilled workforce. Nor do we believe that closures will result in any substantial saving of money."

Sir Peter's assumption that the Green Paper will not affect funding has increased the confusion about its timing and content.

First promised for last December it was postponed until January and then again to the second quarter of this year, moreover, it was said, to include students grants and loans.

Yesterday no firm date was available from the Department of Education.

Sir Peter Swinnerton-Dyer — accused of complacency

Scottish health report links drink to crime

A report yesterday claimed that the doubling of alcohol consumption in Scotland in the past 30 years had resulted in a dramatic rise in the number of

crashes, murders, fire deaths and attempted suicides.

Its authors, The Scottish Health Education Co-ordinating Committee, call for action from the Government, health services, local councils and voluntary bodies, trade unions, courts and the media.

The report describes as worrying the increase of drink problems among women and heavy drinking among 15 and 16-year-olds.

A recent survey showed that half the boys aged 10 to 15 at girls in this age group experienced "some degree of intoxication" in the previous six months.

The report urges the Government to continue to monitor the effects of 1976 legislation which liberalised Scottish

licensing law and it says that duty on alcohol should be regularly increased.

Every area in Scotland should develop a plan for preventing drink abuse, and schools could introduce "alcohol education" into the teaching of some subjects and the Scottish TUC should encourage the development of policies to prevent alcohol abuse among workers, courts could persuade drink-related offenders to accept help, and newspapers, radio and television should encourage the public to regard heavy drinking as socially "naughty" as well as medically dangerous.

Sir John Crofton, the committee chairman, said: "Most people have a general impression that in Scotland alcohol causes many problems, medical and social, but probably few appreciate how greatly these problems have increased over the last 30 years."

Ramblers' guide to the straight and narrow

By Martin Walsworth THE rapprochement between farmers and conservationists, fostered by the Countryside Commission, took another step forward yesterday with the publication of a guide designed to encourage people to visit the countryside.

Half a million, plastic-coated cards, have been printed by the commission with an "Access Charter" giving a summary of the law relating to rights of way.

A booklet with details of the law of trespass, how to deal with obstructed footpaths and similar advice has been published simultaneously.

Both projects have the blessing of the National Union of Farmers and the Country Landowners' Association, which have been cautious about encouraging access in the past.

Sir Derek Barber, the chairman of the commission, said yesterday that the charter marked another step towards better understanding between the "once warring tribes" of the countryside.

He was borne out by endorsements of the charter from the Ramblers Association and the Open Spaces Society as well as the NFU and CLA.

Three Government ministers attended a reception to launch the charter, which is available in English and Welsh. A similar code for Scotland, where laws are different, is not yet ready.

The cards and booklet are available free from countryside organisations, youth hostels and information centres or by post from the commission at 19/23 Albert Road, Manchester M19 2EQ.

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Tony Winwright, Jnt. M.D. Standard Bookbinding

"GLEB provided the perfect recipe for growth"

"We started off in 1977 using all my own recipes. At that time it was mainly Eastern snacks that appealed to the ethnic population. But as our popularity grew, so did we, and we desperately needed more room. GLEB helped us with a £150,000 loan that will mean more jobs and purpose-built premises — the perfect recipe for growth."

Mrs. Manju Karla, M.D. Binisa Foods



"The EEC put its money behind this GLEB high-tech scheme"

"Women have been ignored for too long in the world of information technology. That's why the GLEB launched this training course for women microelectronic technicians, based at the London New Technology Network in Camden. The EEC saw the scheme's value for women and joined the Greater London Training Board in providing financial backing."

Joy Tasker, Course Instructor

"With GLEB's help we can now win a whole new range of contracts"

"We had more print orders than we could cope with. Our turnover had increased five fold in 3 years, but most Banks are simply not interested in providing the sort of development capital that co-ops need. Luckily, GLEB gave a less blinkered, longer term view. Their loan of £200,000 meant we could install a four-colour press, treble our workforce and win a whole new range of contracts."

Tom Reed, Administrator, Lithosphere

"We're working for ourselves. It's a marvellous feeling"

"When our previous employer moved to Crawley, 100 of us couldn't move home. That meant redundancy. Then the GLEB acquired the 2.5-acre site — and saved our jobs. The new London Production Centre will provide units for London's electronics industry. That will mean 400 jobs when the space is let. Now we are working here in new companies the GLEB has set up through London Production Centre Ltd. And, through a workers' trust, we share in running them. It's a marvellous feeling. We can really achieve something for ourselves, and we are doing our best to make it work."

Ivy Crook, Production Worker, London Production Centre



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GLC

Working for London

Kinnock attacks PM on job hopes for young

EMPLOYMENT

By Alan Travis

Mr Neil Kinnock challenged the Prime Minister yesterday to state what real hope she could give 25 unemployed Merseyside youngsters who saw her yesterday and warned that her "lily" of claimed economic success "cuts no ice and cuts no dole queues."

During Prime Minister's Question Time in the Commons the Opposition leader said: "There are over one million unemployed aged between 18 and 24 in Britain now. The Prime Minister is going to see one of them at 10 Downing Street this afternoon."

"Will she look them in the eye and honestly say to them as she said in Newcastle, 'a bright and confident future beckons'? If you do say that, do you really expect them to believe you?"

Mrs Thatcher said she looked forward to meeting the young people: "I shall point out that the economy is expanding, that investment is at an all time high and that the standard of living is at a record level and we are expanding the youth training scheme."

"There will be a number of other people there whom I hope can answer their particular questions and be of practical assistance."

Mr Kinnock retorted: "That lily cuts no ice and it cuts no dole queues either. Mrs Thatcher said Mr



Mr Heffer: 'Bitter years'

Kinnock had got it wrong. "Do you deny that output is at an all-time record and that investment is at an all time record? And I am sure you support the YTS. We shall have more jobs when we have more goods and services that people want to buy. If you know how to do it perhaps you should start up your own business."

Mr Eric Heffer (Lab. Walton), who accompanied the youngsters, said: "When she does meet the young unemployed they are unlikely to believe that there is an expanding economy because of their bitter experience of many years of unemployment."

Mrs Thatcher replied: "We shall continue with the policies presented by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in his budget."

ULSTER

'Double talk' warning

By our Political Staff

THE LEADER of the Official Ulster Unionists, Mr James Molyneux, last night gave notice at Westminster that unless the "diplomatic double talk" of the possibility of an Anglo-Irish formula to Northern Ireland's problems ceased, the progress made in the last six months could come to nothing.

Speaking during an adjournment debate Mr Molyneux said: "Mrs Thatcher's statement after the Chequers summit last November had made a significant impact throughout the Northern Ireland community."

The different parties had recognised that there was no point in continuing to squabble amongst themselves and had even begun to ask how, and in what way, they might be able to co-operate. "Tragically, things have happened recently, such as the press reports at the weekend stemming from the views of Republican politicians and certain churchmen and culminating in Dr Garret FitzGerald's speech, made after he lunched in Dublin to Sir Geoffrey Howe, and Mr Douglas Hurd, in which he suggested that they were all working on far-reaching proposals for joint authority over Northern Ireland."

Mr Molyneux questioned the speculation by Mr Hurd, the Northern Ireland Secretary, saying it was "overblown."

"This is all good Foreign Office stuff, but it only creates anxiety in minds of people who have been let down and betrayed. All that has been achieved in the last six months will now be set at naught."

"This disaster will only be averted if Her Majesty's Government reiterates the clear message given by the Prime Minister after the Chequers summit."

Then Mrs Thatcher agreed with Dr FitzGerald, the Irish Taoiseach, on early moves to explore a route to a joint political initiative on Northern Ireland, but she also clearly ruled out a United Ireland or joint rule. Mr Molyneux warned that "diplomatic double talk" would achieve nothing.

Twenty years on and back in the groove

By James Naughtie, Political Correspondent

MR David Steel has been acknowledging this week that he is not getting any younger, but insisting that his most productive years in politics have yet to come. After 20 years in the Commons he has clearly learned just how to lighten uncomfortable realities with eternal hope.

The twentieth anniversary of the by-election victory which brought him to the House of Commons has inevitably been the occasion for another of the regular reviews of his performance and his prospects and it is accepted by his Social Democratic Alliance colleagues that both have improved in the past year.

He is making more — and better — speeches outside the Commons than he was then and perhaps more importantly his work behind the scenes in the Alliance has lost the lethargy which marked his attitude for at least a year after the 1983 general election.

His much-publicised "sabotage" in the wake of that election was a public relations disaster as much as it was a personal crisis, and it has dogged him ever since. At that time he was genuinely doubtful about the capacity of the Alliance to reach the threshold of power of any kind, and retreated into a lonely bout of introspection, made more agonising by the fact that he had ended the election in a state of physical exhaustion which left him drained of energy for weeks.

That period is now assumed to be behind him, and there is evidence in his general approach to politics that most of the old relish has returned.

But he still suffers from the assumption that he is somehow a man whose moment has passed, and who is in league with one — Dr David Owen — whose moment has yet to come.

Like all such impressions at Westminster it is hard to dispel once it has taken hold. He still faces criticism from Liberal activists that the SDP leader appears to be able to shuttle more efficiently from television to radio studio and back again than their own man, and is ready with the crisp instant comments.

But it is one of the most interesting aspects of Mr Steel's rediscovery of the enjoyment of politics that he seems to find it easier now to shrug off such criticism than once he did.

The key to him has always been a certain Presbyterian reserve, induced in him from his boyhood in the Manse — his father was a minister — and emerging, for example, in his curious relationship with crowds: though he loves to be popular and to hear the applause, he always wants to keep his distance.

It often manifests itself as a reluctance to show emotion and results in some prickly encounters. At the Commons, for example, he has never been a glad-hander with members of other parties and has tended to keep his warm relationships private.

The contrast with the public image is striking — the

boyish joker can be much more melancholic than many voters would suspect.

Naturally, it is on the relationship with Dr Owen that everything depends. If the Alliance is to progress from its apparent support base of about a quarter of the electorate — in other words to do more than stop the election of a majority Labour Government — the dual leadership has to work.

In the past few months they have started to meet much more often than they did.

The SDP leader is evidently seen by the electorate as the dominant partner — and at Westminster his parliamentary strengths are superior — but Mr Steel is still in the position of having behind him a party which is much the stronger and better organised of the two (though there was a time when such a statement about the Liberals could not have been imagined).

He is therefore in a strong position in all the bargains that have to be struck before the next election — though there are difficulties with his own activists, principally on defence — and can indulge his natural enjoyment of tactical manoeuvring which has always interested him more than detailed policy-making.

The leader of minority parties are fighting perpetual election campaigns. Every move is part of the preparation for the next contest, whether it be in building up that elusive "credibility" as a force capable of exercising power or simply of staying in the headlines.

It is hardly the moment to predict the outcome, but there is an optimism in Mr Steel's circle which was absent a year ago. He believes — with Mr Neil Kinnock and others — that the Government is heading for trouble, and that Mrs Thatcher's grip on the public mind is loosening fast.

If that process does gather pace, the extent of the Steel comeback — if that is what it is — will become clear. There have been questions asked in the past two years about his commitment, his style, his talents.

It has been a good 20 years, but the funny thing is that though he has spent much of that time fighting very difficult battles on the fringes of politics, he must know that the most difficult ones are probably still ahead of him. At least, he hopes so.



Mr Steel — a certain Presbyterian reserve

It was this process that exhausted David Steel after the last election: a leader for seven years and nothing to show for it except the hopes for next time.

The thought that he might spend another five weary years for the same result was intensely depressing.

Now the worst of that feeling appears to have passed, perhaps because he believes that the Alliance has now established a bridgehead from which advance is quite likely and that he has found a way of working with a partner who is the first to admit that he can be difficult.

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Prescription pledge

By our Political Staff

Labour's health spokesman, Mr Michael Meacher, has pledged in the Commons that Labour would cut the £2 prescription charge and make it a central election issue.

He was speaking early yesterday during a Labour attempt to block a government Order to increase National Health Service prescription and dental charges.

"We shall vote against them, we shall campaign against them, and we shall repeal them," said Mr Meacher, who predicted that by the time of the next election, charges would probably have risen to between £3 and

£4. Labour would cut them to well below £2.

Mr Kenneth Clarke, the Health Minister, said the increased charges would bring in an extra £19 million from those who could afford to afford the drugs bill, now approaching £15 billion a year. Only 23 per cent of prescriptions were sold at full NHS charges and he made no apology for raising revenue from those who could afford it.

The Labour attempt to block the order was defeated by 268 votes to 179 (Government majority 89). The Liberals, the SDP and some Democratic Unionists voted against the charges.

ENVIRONMENT

Pesticide curb — protest

THE GOVERNMENT has attempted an attempt to amend the Food and Environment Protection Bill next week in committee to restrict the ex-

port of dangerous pesticides to Third World countries.

Angry members of the Commons committee examining the bill challenged ministers yesterday to explain how British Government pressures led to the deletion of safeguards on such exports from the latest draft of the International Code of Conduct drawn up by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations in Rome.

The Government had not informed the committee of such moves that were happening in Rome and had argued that export restrictions did not need to be written into the Pesticides Bill because the international safeguards were satisfactory.

The crucial clause deleted from the FAO code provides for Third World governments to give their prior informed consent before dangerous pesticides are shipped to their markets.

Oxfam believes the restriction would have helped to reduce the 10,000 deaths each year in developing countries caused by accidental pesticide poisoning.

Mr Dale Campbell-Savours (Lab. Workington), a member of the Food and Environment Bill committee, said: "They did not indicate to us what they were doing. We were upset particularly in the light of an assurance given by Lord Belstead, the Junior Agriculture Minister, to the Lords in

January. He said that Britain would honour all its international obligations."

"He must have known they were going to have this clause deleted from the FAO code. The Government has pre-empted the debate."

A series of amendments, with cross-party support, were to be tabled next week to ensure that prior informed consent would become part of Britain's new pesticide laws.

Mrs Peggy Fennell, a Junior Agriculture Minister, told the committee that what happened in Rome had no bearing on domestic legislation in Britain. But this was challenged by committee members, who said it would be unworkable if only applied to British producers.

DEFENCE

Trident jobs boost

ABOUT 30,000 new jobs in Britain are expected to be created as a result of the Trident nuclear missile programme, Mr Adam Butler, the Minister for Defence Procurement, told the Commons yesterday.

He said 16,000 direct jobs and 13,000 indirect jobs would be created and during the peak years.

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had moments of illness in her life.
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F O R P E A C E O F M I N D

Neves in hospital for third operation

From Jan Rocha in Sao Paulo

The President-elect, Mr Tancredo Neves, aged 75, again underwent surgery here yesterday. It was his third operation since illness prevented him from being sworn in on March 15, Brazilian television reported.

It quoted presidential spokesman Mr Antonio Brito as saying Mr Neves was undergoing surgery at Brazil's top heart hospital here to stop internal bleeding.

Mr Neves was taken to the Heart Institute here early yesterday from a military hospital in Brasilia, 600 miles away, where he had been recovering from emergency intestinal operations on March 15 and 20.

Mr Brito earlier said that tests had showed slight internal bleeding aggravated by an increase in blood pressure.

The doctors were unable to stop the bleeding and decided to operate. There is now grave concern about the outcome of the operation.

The news of the president's relapse was a setback after optimistic forecasts by the doctors had indicated that Mr Neves would be able to leave hospital this week, and take office in a few days time.

Whatever the outcome of the operation, the interim president Mr Jose Sarney, has decided to start reviewing his power in full, instead of marking time as he has done up till now. While the president-elect was being operated on in Sao Paulo, Congress and government leaders were in Brasilia to discuss the political situation in the light of the medical news.

Alfonso 'sure' on Falklands

From Peter Chapman in Mexico City

Argentina's effort to get an agreement on the Falkland Islands has collapsed. In the face of the permanent intransigence shown by the government of Great Britain, the President, Mr Raul Alfonsín, said yesterday, during a three-day visit to Mexico.

Mr Alfonsín said he was confident his country would regain sovereignty over the islands by negotiation.

"We are sure that the strength and solidity of our position will allow us to get rid of these last vestiges of colonialism in America," he said.

In an otherwise laconic performance over breakfast with members of the foreign press here, President Alfonsín reserved some of his strongest words for the Falklands issue.

Argentina's desire for dialogue, he said, was backed by the international community and the United Nations but had achieved nothing because of Britain.

On the question of Argentina's foreign debt, the president said he was still hoping for a rescheduling deal with the world bankers and the International Monetary Fund.

The IMF supports Argentina's financial support for Argentina last week, complaining of Argentina's failure to impose economic austerity measures, in particular against an inflation rate now running at about 800 per cent.

He suggested, however, that a loan package from other Latin American countries such as Mexico might be possible to help Argentina through in the most immediate problems.

Argentina, he added, gave absolute support to Mexico and the other members of the Contadora group, Colombia, Panama and Venezuela, in their search for peace in Central America.

Chile bomb kills two

From Malcolm Coad in Santiago

TWO military explosive experts have been killed while defusing a bomb in the main hotel in the southern Chilean city of Concepcion.

The blast which, according to a local military spokesman, shattered windows along two floors of the Hotel Arango came minutes after the Government television channel was jammed in the region by a clandestine radio transmission supporting anti-government protests called for today by the leftwing opposition.

There were no immediate claims of responsibility for the blast, but the authorities blame the illegal Communist Party, and its ally, the Movement of the Revolutionary Left. These are the leading forces in the Popular Democratic Movement coalition which, together with Socialist groups, has called today's protest.

The largest opposition force, the centrist Democratic Alliance, is not participating on the grounds that the protest is "inappropriate" after an earthquake which devastated much of the country's central region earlier this month.

General reports on reduction of Europe's atomic stockpile

Nato set to eliminate nuclear landmines

From David Fairhall in Luxembourg

A complete category of nuclear weapons — the so-called atomic demolition munitions or nuclear landmines — is almost certain to be eliminated from the European stockpile, on the recommendation of the Supreme Allied Commander, US General Rogers.

This is the most clearcut decision so far to emerge from a secret report on how the stockpile should be reduced presented by the general in Luxembourg yesterday to a meeting of Nato's Nuclear Planning Group.

He had been asked how he proposed to implement the defence ministers' Montebello decision two years ago that the number of so-called tactical nuclear weapons — that is, mainly shells and bombs, rather than longrange missiles — should be reduced from about 6,000 to 4,000 by the end of 1988.

In the event, the total he came up with is marginally below the Montebello ceiling — a nice touch of diplomatic tact from a Supreme Commander who earlier expressed public resentment that politicians should meddle in what he regarded as essentially a military assessment.

It had long been expected that many of the 400 or so ADMs would go, because even the smaller "backpack" design would take hours to deploy unless buried in advance — something most Nato governments would not contemplate — and would subsequently contaminate the ground with radioactivity. In short, they were "politically unusable."

But Turkish and Italian commanders were nevertheless reported to have advised General Rogers to retain some of the mines for possible use in blocking their mountain passes.

This bold move in removing this category of weapons altogether may therefore gain him some credit with the anti-nuclear movement for genuinely

reducing Nato's reliance on nuclear weapons.

The other category eliminated in his review is that of nuclear-tipped anti-aircraft missiles — in this instance, about 800 high-altitude Nike-Hercules. This is because what remains of the Soviet high-altitude bombing threat can more efficiently be dealt with by the new non-nuclear Patriot system now coming into service, and is more a reflection of advanced technology than of any nuclear rethink.

Elsewhere, his report indicates that numbers can generally be reduced as modern weapons with greater range, accuracy and mobility replace obsolete types designed up to 20 or 30 years ago.

Politically the most sensitive aspect of this modernisation is the Supreme Commander's plan to replace the existing American 155-millimetre nuclear shell, also used by Britain's Rhine Army, with a shell known as the W82, which can be converted "in the field" into an enhanced radiation weapon, or neutron-bomb.

Production of the W82 for the US Army has been authorised by Congress, but General Rogers and other Nato officials speaking in public always emphasise that its neutron-bomb modification kit will not be deployed on this side of the Atlantic until European suspicions of the weapon have died down.

The Rogers report is still formally no more than a recommendation, although it represents five years' work by the Nato military staffs. Today, the full text will be released to Allied defence ministers for the first time, together with a statement of the detailed implications for each country's armed forces.

The British Defence Secretary, Mr Heseltine, said he was very grateful for General Rogers' work in fleshing out the Montebello proposals. The important thing was that Nato was fulfilling its commitment to reduce the number of warheads to the lowest number in decades.

GE faces charges of defence fraud

From Alex Brummer in Washington

EFFORTS by the United States to punish overcharged defence contractors began to yield some results yesterday when the General Electric company said it was facing indictment on allegations that it sought to defraud the Pentagon on contracts for nuclear warheads.

At the same time, the beleaguered General Dynamics corporation offered to withdraw \$23 million worth of monthly overhead charges to the Pentagon, \$83.6 million of which has been questioned by official auditors.

A temporary halt on US Government payments to General Dynamics has been imposed by the Defence Secretary, Mr Caspar Weinberger, while investigations at the company continue.

Among the new disclosures yesterday was that the Assistant Navy Secretary, Mr George Sawyer, approved a nuclear submarine contract in 1983 while negotiating for a job with the group. A federal Grand Jury has begun investigating this charge which Mr Sawyer says was "nothing serious."

The increasing war on the defence contractors follows the exposure on Capitol Hill of a series of attempts by military industrialists to overcharge the taxpayer. This ranges from the \$750 million machine and the \$640 toilet seat to efforts by Boeing and others to charge its political lobbying direct to the taxpayer via the Pentagon through its overhead bills.

The charges against General Electric, America's fourth largest defence contractor, focus on alleged fraudulent charges for work performed at the company's Philadelphia factory on the reentry system for the Minuteman missile.

"These matters involve complex contractual and accounting procedures," the company said yesterday.

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"These matters involve complex contractual and accounting procedures," the company said yesterday.

Attack on Polish priests

Warsaw: The Government said today that Roman Catholic priests were giving more political content into sermons since the murder by security police last October of pro-Solidarity priest, Father Jerzy Popieluszko.

Mr Urban attacked by name Fathers Stanislaw Leon, Kantorski and Henryk Jankowski, who is Solidarity leader Lech Walesa's religious adviser, for assailing the authorities in their sermons. Father Kantorski last week joined a hunger strike in Podkowa Lezna.

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Mr Gorbachev (centre) performed his first public duties since the funeral of President Chernenko when he attended yesterday's meeting of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation. Deputies gave him a brief standing ovation, and gave him another when the Speaker congratulated him on his appointment as party general secretary

Hungary reforms endorsed

By Hella Pick

THE Kremlin's representative at the Hungarian Communist Party Congress, Mr Grigorij Romanov, yesterday delivered a qualified endorsement of Hungary's economic reforms and warned that the country's links with the West must not be developed at the expense of close ties between the Warsaw Pact countries.

Mr Romanov is a senior member of the Soviet Politbureau. His speech in Budapest yesterday, the second day of the Hungarian party meeting, had been eagerly awaited for clues of the Soviet leader's attitude to Hungary's economic liberalism, as well as his plans for economic reforms inside the Soviet Union.

In his declaration, Mr Romanov spoke of "the correctness" of Hungary's policies, and acknowledged that the Soviet Union, as it tackled "the tasks ahead," could certainly learn from the results in developing the economic management systems of other Socialist countries.

He acknowledged that the Soviet Union must "modernise its economic mechanism" and foreshadowed plans to give individual enterprises a larger degree of autonomy. Mr Romanov also indicated that the Soviet leadership would authorise greater worker participation, and that earnings would be more closely related to productivity.

All this sounded far closer to the more cautious economic changes that are being introduced in Bulgaria than to Hungary's economic policies, where private enterprise has been widely encouraged.

Mr Romanov referred to Hungary's policies as "unique in a brotherly nation," which was scarcely calculated to suggest that the Soviet Union intended to emulate it. He added that "the achievement of successes is our deeply felt concern."

However, Mr Romanov's speech also reinforced earlier hints that the Kremlin, without forcing Hungary to retrench, is hinting that the process towards liberalisation has gone about as far as is consistent with the country's obligations to the Socialist community.

China has sent its first message in more than 20 years to Hungary's ruling Communist Party in the latest sign of growing ties between Peking and the Soviet Union's East European allies.

The Ukrainian Communist Party has ordered regional ministers and party officials to "introduce appropriate order" after disclosures of bribery, embezzlement and inefficiency. Pravda reported yesterday.

US allies get 60 days to join SDI programme

From our own Correspondent in Luxembourg

In a further effort to enlist European support for President Reagan's controversial Star Wars research programme, the Strategic Defence Initiative, the US Defence Secretary, Mr Caspar Weinberger, has written to all his Nato colleagues — and the defence ministers of Japan, Australia, and Israel — inviting them to consider joining the programme.

Each minister has been asked to respond within 60 days indicating whether his country would be interested and, if so, in what areas its scientists might usefully contribute. The American head of the SDI programme, General James A. Abrahamson, is already believed to have identified key technologies in which Britain, France and West Germany have the edge, but here is still widespread scepticism in all three countries as to whether Star Wars makes strategic or political sense.

With this obviously in mind, Mr Weinberger's letter emphasises that "the SDI programme will not confine itself solely to an exploitation of technologies with potential against ICBMs and SLBMs, but will also carefully examine technologies with potential against shorter range ballistic missiles."

As for the 60-day deadline, a senior US official said later there was no cut-off point for participation, but he thought those countries that were interested would want to get in early with their bids.

All those defence ministers who spoke during yesterday's

session of Nato's two-day Nuclear Planning Group meeting in Luxembourg expressed support for research into space-based defences against ballistic missiles provided their commitment was clearly seen to stop there. Even the Americans who are increasingly inclined to make the SDI another test of alliance solidarity, by analogy with the cruise missile deployment, have acknowledged in Luxembourg as one senior official put it, that there are still a large number of unanswered questions about eventual deployment.

The West German Government expects some answers today from a high-level US delegation led by the research programme's chief, General Abrahamson.

He will brief the parliamentary foreign and defence committees and discuss the project with an inter-ministerial working group which has drawn up the arguments for and against German participation in SDI research. In particular, the Germans want to know how SDI is going to affect Nato strategy.

CHINA yesterday proposed a moratorium on the development of space weapons while negotiations are under way to prevent an arms race in space. Chinese Ambassador Qian Qidong told the 40-nation Geneva Conference on Disarmament that "superpower negotiations on the issue should be 'speedily' complemented by talks in the multilateral body."

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All those defence ministers who spoke during yesterday's

Shooting may lead to closer watch on Soviet patrols

From Anna Tomforde in Bonn

Western officials made clear yesterday that the killing of an American army officer by a Soviet guard in East Germany will not lead to significant changes in the shadowy activities of the wartime allies' military missions in East and West Germany.

"We shall carry on as normal," a British Rhine Army spokesman said, referring to the freedom of movement granted to the Soviet Union's military mission accredited to the former British zone, if Soviet officers were found to be in or near restricted military areas, it was usual practice "to hem them in and ask the German police to take them away."

Diplomats said the shooting of Major Arthur Nicholson on Sunday near Ludwigsluft to the north-west of Berlin could lead to even closer surveillance of Soviet patrols in West Germany, but neither side was interested in altering the status or function of the military outposts which spy on one another's military installations.

In Luxembourg, the US Defence Secretary, Mr Caspar Weinberger, said yesterday that three members of the Soviet military mission in the former American zone of West Germany had been found inside a restricted military area near Hof in Bavaria on March 20. They have been stopped by the US army and were handed over to the West German police, who escorted them back to the Soviet mission in Frankfurt.

In Moscow, Tass said yesterday that the shooting was "regrettable" but blamed the US.

In the first comment from Moscow on the incident, Tass said that Major Nicholson had been shot dead by a Soviet sentry acting according to military regulations after the American refused to heed a warning shout.

In Washington, the incident

is believed unlikely to have a serious effect on superpower relations.

A senior US official said Sunday's shooting was "murder" and rejected a Soviet charge that Major Nicholson had tried to escape after entering a restricted military zone.

The incident involving Major Nicholson occurred only 25 miles from the West German border near Schwerin, where the Russians are known to have several forward-based military installations and where modern short-range nuclear weapons are thought to be deployed.

According to American army sources, Major Nicholson was on a "legitimate reconnaissance visit, observing Soviet military installations and equipment was routine for both the Western allies in East Germany and the Russians in West Germany."

During Mr Chernenko's year in office, neither side made any serious attempt to convene a summit, but President Reagan always said it would only be worthwhile if "carefully prepared."

Now the US message has radically changed. The Vice-President, Mr George Bush, who represented the Administration at Mr Chernenko's funeral, carried a letter from Reagan urging Mr Gorbachev to visit Washington.

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Walters admitted to NSC meetings

From Alex Brummer in Washington

General Vernon Walters, President Reagan's nominee as US Ambassador to the United Nations, will attend National Security Council meetings by invitation, the White House announced last night.

The decision bore all the marks of a compromise designed to keep General Walters in his designated post but satisfying the concerns of the Secretary of State, Mr Shultz, that he might use a permanent seat on the NSC as a soapbox for his strident conservative views.

The Secretary of State was unhappy with the way General Walters' predecessor, Mrs Jeane Kirkpatrick, used the NSC as a soapbox for her strident conservative views.

The storm over the status of General Walters burst into the open earlier this week when the Washington Times, a conservative newspaper controlled by the Moonies, reported that General Walters felt "betrayed" by Mr Shultz's efforts to keep him off the NSC when he takes up his new post at the UN.

But, after President Reagan had talked to General Walters yesterday, it was announced that he had accepted the post of UN ambassador with Cabinet rank and would be able to attend NSC meetings by invitation.

While this is something less than the full-scale membership of the NSC which General Walters had sought, it is certainly a political triumph. It is noted that Mrs Kirkpatrick was able to make her views felt very effectively, especially on Central and Latin America.

President Reagan first nominated General Walters to the United Nations on February 8 to succeed Mrs Kirkpatrick. The initial nomination was delayed while General Walters fought the bureaucratic battle for Cabinet rank and a seat on the NSC.

State Department officials said that Mr Shultz had fought strongly to keep General Walters off the NSC. "It has not been easy to do with Walters, but with the job," they were quoted as saying yesterday.

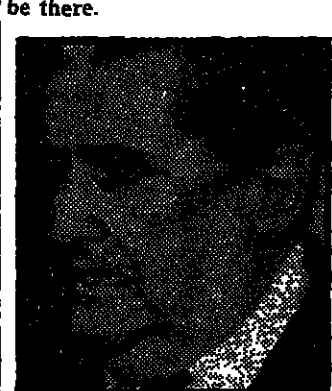
"Shultz did not want the UN ambassador to have the same degree of independence that Jeane Kirkpatrick had."

General Walters apparently assumed that by gaining Cabinet status he would also earn a seat on the NSC. But it had been made clear in the last week that this was not the case.

Jane Rosen adds from New York: Mrs Kirkpatrick said goodbye to the UN yesterday, and she will leave the Reagan Administration officially this Friday. But she is not leaving public life.

On the contrary, some Republican political strategists have been talking her for either the presidential or the vice-presidential nomination in 1988. At least two members of the Cabinet are supporting her. And secret Republican polls in the New York-New Jersey area are reported to show that she has a strong following among women and conservatives in both parties, and would run ahead of other potential candidates.

Mrs Kirkpatrick said yesterday that she has no political ambitions and "cannot conceive of running for any public office, ever." But on April 3 she is changing her registration from the Democratic to the Republican party, and the Republicans are planning a big fund-raising dinner to welcome her — the President himself will be there.



General Walters: by invitation only

Tithing plan for Vatican rejected

From George Armstrong in Rome

In five years time, when the Italian Treasury stops its subsidy to the Roman Catholic Church which this year will amount to more than £124 million — the Italian Church may find itself in financial difficulties.

The new Concordat between Italy and the Holy See, ratified last week by Parliament, says that from 1990 the Italian taxpayer may indicate on his income tax form whether he wishes 0.8 per cent of the tax due to be paid to a fund controlled by the Italian bishops.

That fund would be used to pay wages of the clergy, which now are paid by the government. Moreover, a taxpayer from 1990 may deduct from his declared income a gift to the church for a sum not to exceed £935.

A survey in which 1,056 Ital-

ians were questioned, indicates that only 14.7 per cent would be in favour of having part of their taxes go to the Church. When asked about the deductible direct donation, 45 per cent said they were opposed to the idea and 41 per cent were in favour.

The survey also confirmed figures given some years ago by the bishops' ratio, about one third of adult Italians attend church regularly.

Among the 30.8 per cent who consider themselves to be practising Catholics, only 30.2 per cent wanted that fraction of their taxes to go to the bishops' fund. The tax forms from 1990 will also give an option to the bishops' fund, other Italian charities, Third World aid. Sixty-six per cent of all those polled preferred the second option and 15 per cent favoured the Third

Queen in Portugal

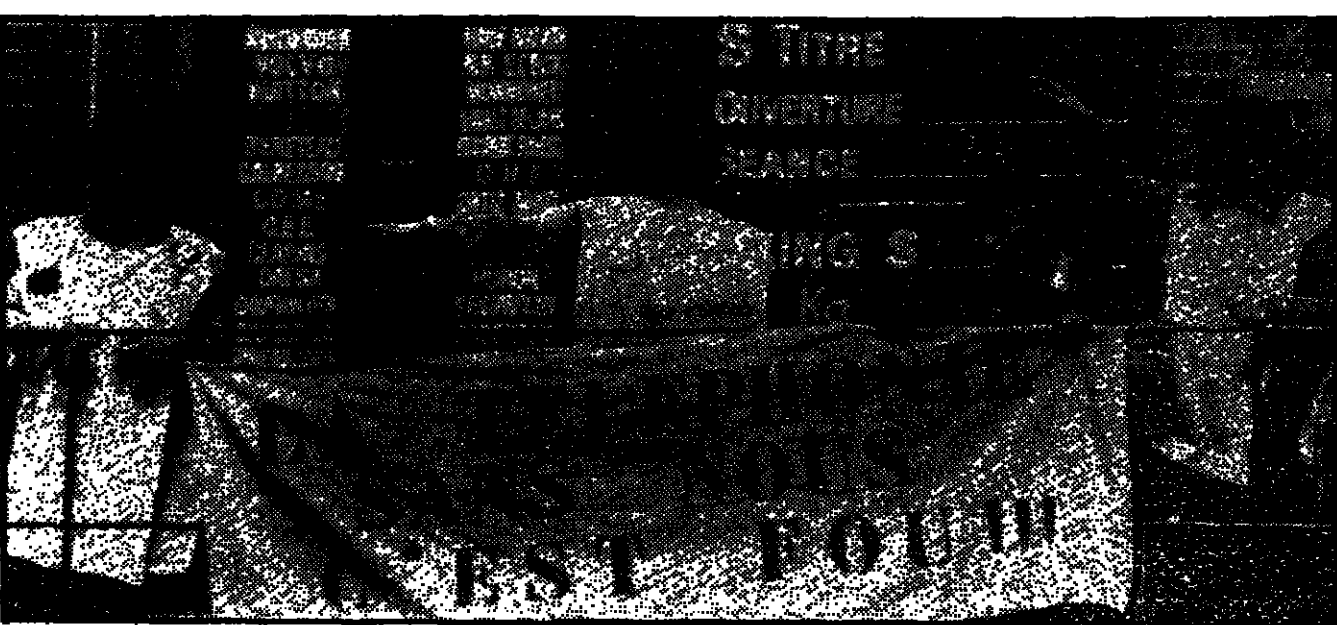
From Jill Jolliffe in Lisbon

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh began a four-day state visit to Portugal yesterday, and received a warm welcome.

They disembarked from the Britannia at the Tower of Belem, in the Tagus River, from which Vasco da Gama set off on his historic voyage four centuries ago. They were greeted by President Eanes, as well as an enthusiastic crowd of Portuguese wellwishers and members of the British community.

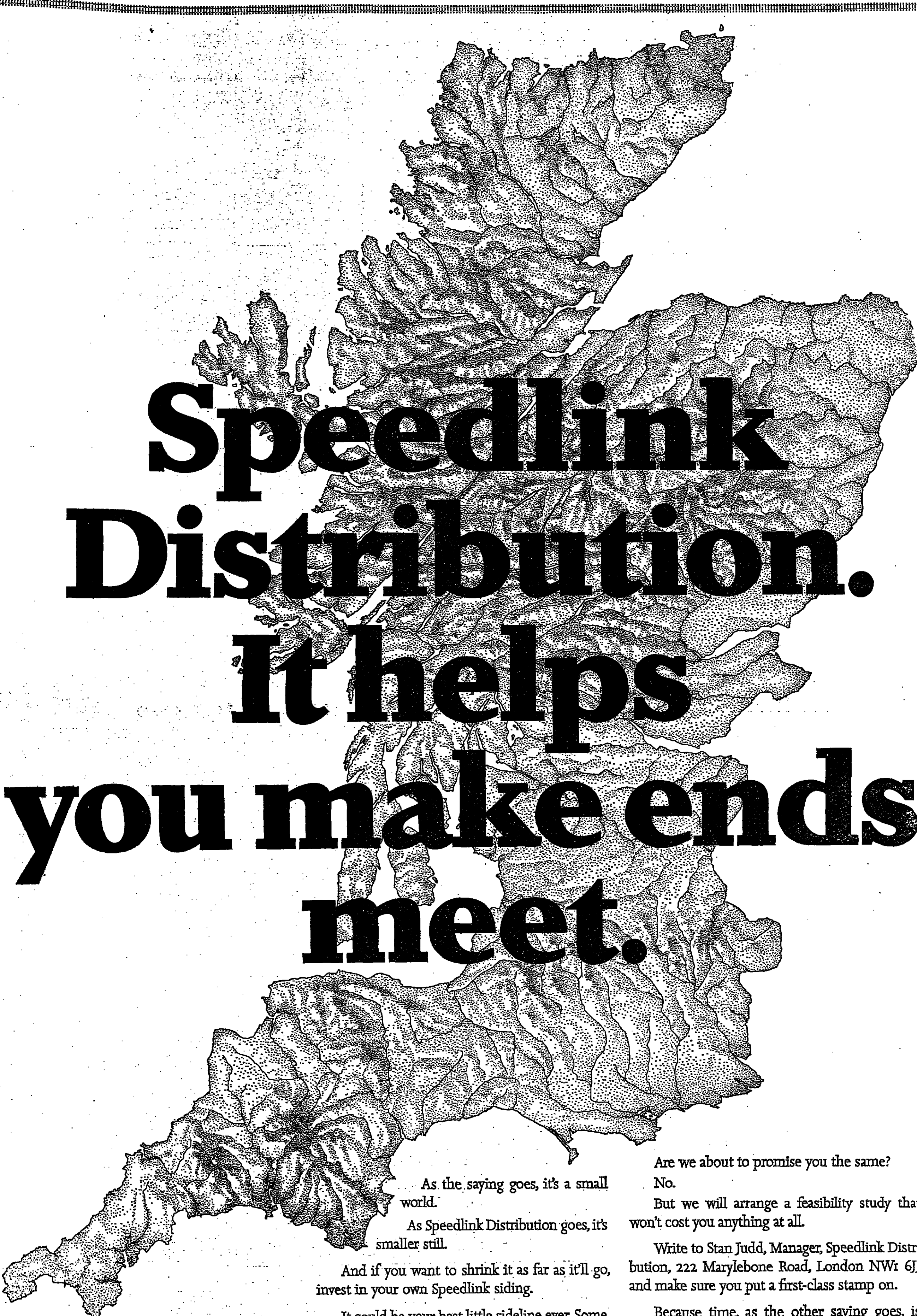
It is the first royal visit to Portugal since the 1974 revolution, and in her speech at a state banquet at Ajuda Palace the Queen underlined the democratic changes which had occurred and praised President Eanes' role in them.

The Queen will host a seminar on British industry on board the Britannia.



Demonstrators occupied the Paris Bourse yesterday to protest against redundancies at the French state telecommunications group Thomson-CSF. They hung a banner in front of the building reading: "The telephone service without us — it's crazy."

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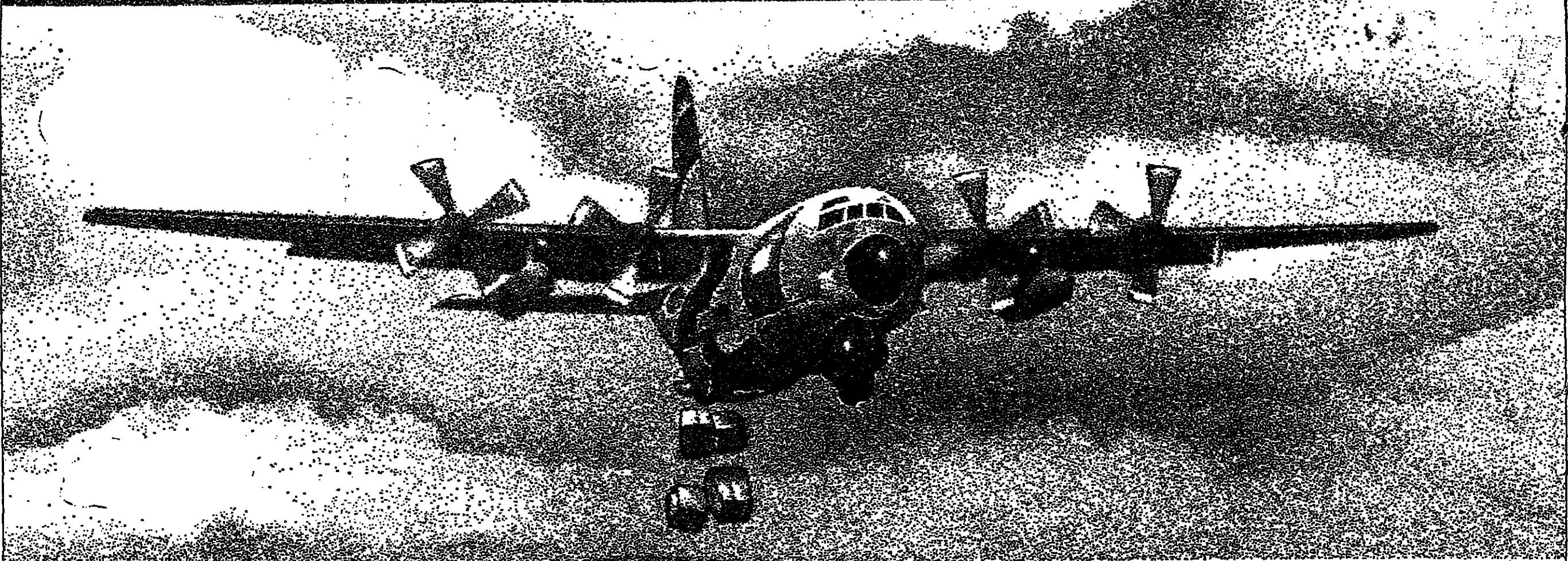
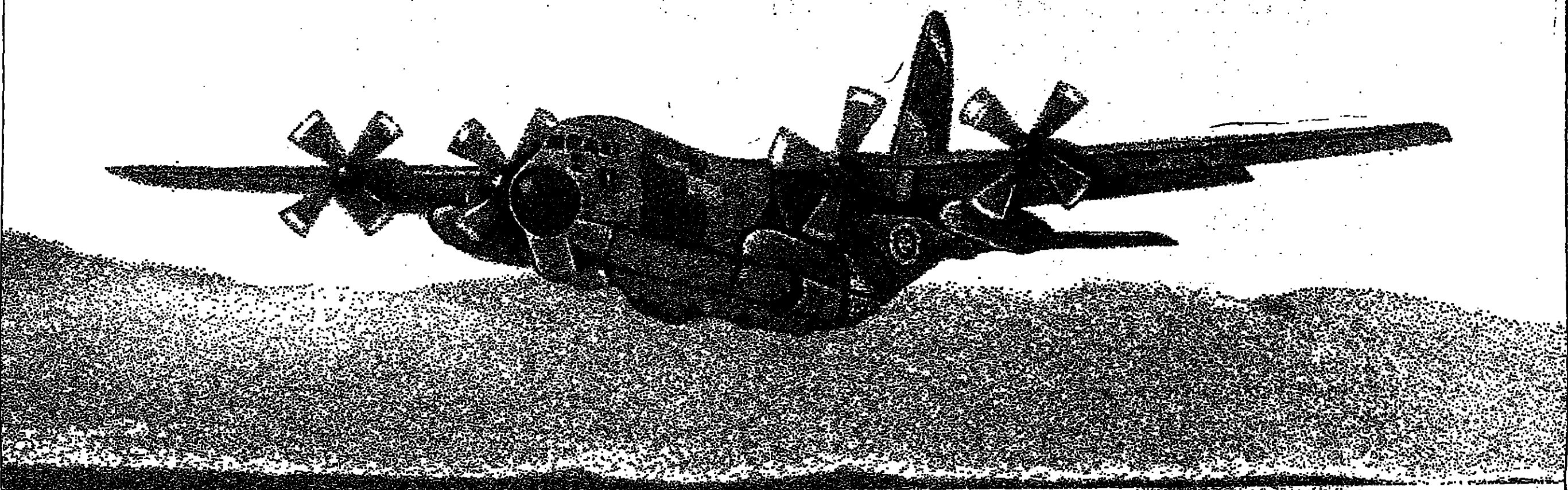
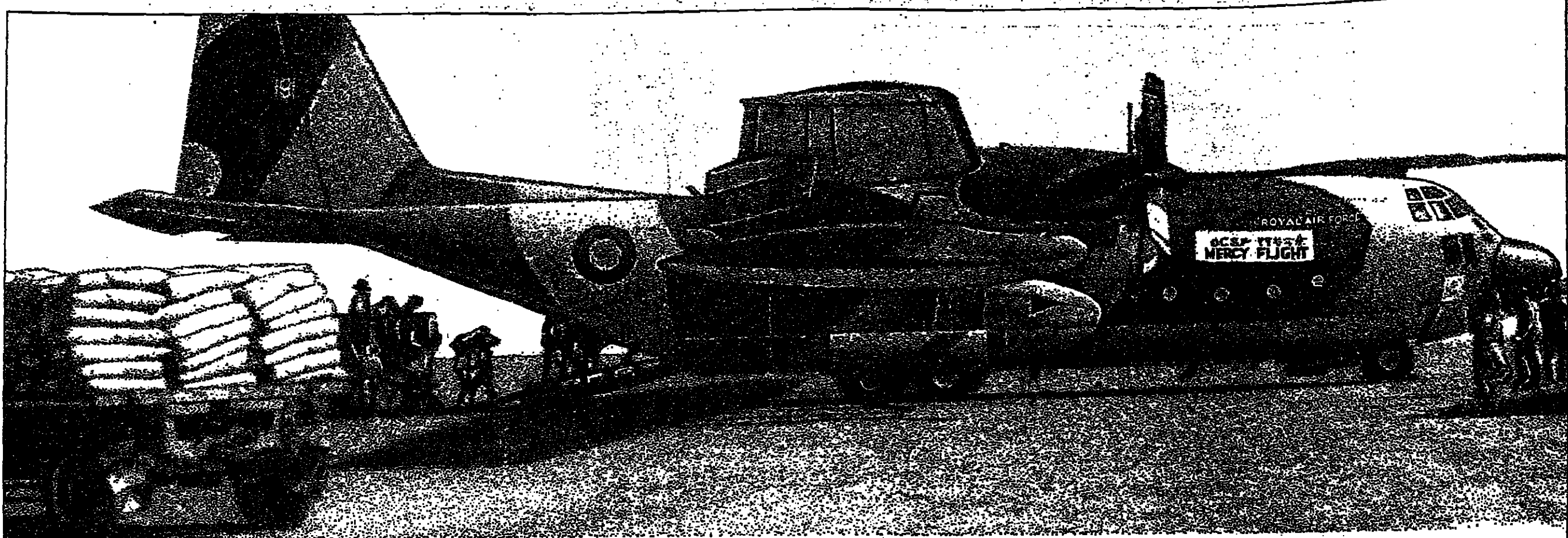
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Numerous RAF Officers have been involved in Operation Bushel, drawn from many different branches. But all share the

basic responsibility of every RAF Officer around the world, leading, managing and inspiring the trust of those they command.

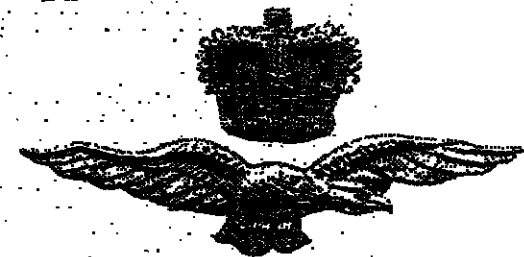
The logistic experts, organising and operating the supply chain are as vital as the Hercules' aircrew. So are the detachments of groundcrew, engineers and other support units. Together, they all form the majority of the British Military Detachment, Ethiopia.

Such operations present mammoth difficulties (ironically, in a country so cruelly hit by drought, many problems are caused by rain-affected runways).

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RAF Officer

NEW work is the lifeblood of the theatre. And, at a time when New York is parched of premieres, the ninth annual Humana Festival of New American Plays at the Actors Theatre of Louisville, Kentucky, astonished by offering eleven works in a weekend. Quality, however, is not the same as quantity: and, though the Louisville marathon is an indispensable part of the theatrical calendar, this year I felt a skilful Festival with half as many productions would have made twice the impact.

Louisville's value is that it reminds one of the major shift going on in American theatre. Jon Jory, director of the Actors Theatre, pointed out that a writer can get a commission of up to \$10,000 for a new play on the regional circuit. Given a dozen productions, a work can thus earn far more round the country than it might from initial exposure in New York. Robert Anderson once said that a dramatist can make a killing in America but he cannot make a living; but the rise of regional theatres and the concomitant decline of New York suggests this is no longer automatically true.

Increasingly, Louisville this year also reminds us that American dramatists are increasingly writing sixty-minute plays. I heard many reasons advanced for this: the influence of television, the decline in audience concentration, the commercial popularity of short plays like *Night Mother*. But it is a trend I view with alarm.

A short play presents a single situation: what it does less well is to explore multiple themes. "The subplot," as Jon Jory rightly warned, is becoming an endangered species, and I passionately hope that American drama, which in O'Neill, Miller and Williams explored developing situations, is not going to be whittled down to a barebones narrative because that is all audiences can assimilate in the age of TV.

Short can be good: it can also be limiting. One of the most stirring plays at Louisville this year was Bruce Bonafede's *Advice To The Players* but I felt it raised more racial, political and theatrical issues than it could easily encompass in an hour.

Inspired by an incident that occurred at Baltimore in 1981, it shows two black Capetown actors being forbidden from playing *Waiting For Godot* in America by the South Africa National Council.



Tom Wright and Delroy Lindo in *Advice To The Players*: stirring but short

Michael Billington reports on why they love short plays at Louisville

The sixty minute theatre

cl. The dilemma facing the actors is cruel. If they withdraw from the production they risk being banned by the South African Government for implication in a revolutionary movement. If, on the other hand, they play *Beckett* in Baltimore, the Council threaten reprisals against them and their families. Finally, they withdraw, and like Beckett's tramps, cling to each other for comfort in a senseless world.

It is a good play because (unusually for Louisville) it raises a major political issue. It clearly says that the artist cannot cut himself off from the society to which he belongs: at the same time, it shows the desperate plight of the black South African actor caught between a repressive government and a revolutionary moment, protesting against the murder of one of its members.

But although the play pinpoints a particular dilemma (and is superbly played by Tom Wright and Delroy Lindo) it leaves many questions unanswered. Why did the Baltimore Festival people not anticipate the dangers of violating a cultural boycott? Were the actors subsequently penalised for their withdrawal? Was this the first time they had found themselves in this kind of political dilemma? A longer play could have taken up more of the issues of art versus politics in the manner of Gunter Grass's *The Plebeians Rehearse The Uprising*. But, for all that, Mr Bonafede's play deserves to be widely seen.

Sometimes, of course, brevity is best. One of the finest written pieces in the Festival was the first half of a double-bill by an Atlanta dramatist, Frank Manley,

called *The Rain Of Terror*. This was a beautiful piece of Southern Gothic, presenting us with a grotesque old couple squatting, virtually immobile in a Georgia trailer. The woman (the magnificent Kathy Bates) is a barrel-chested party in a hairnet who describes how she and her husband have conspired to murder a fugitive from a work-camp. Clearly all the runaway wanted from the couple was shelter. But the old woman, claiming to have heard the voice of God, has contemplated putting roach tablets in the fugitive's grits and cutting his throat before getting her husband to shoot him with a double-barrelled gun. Violence and greed (the woman assumed the prisoner was bulging with money) are given divine sanction in a chilling, played-filled, with creepy Southern discomfort. Significantly, another work

from Atlanta also dealt with the umbilical link between religion and pain and gave the Festival its most triumphant success. This was *Tent Meeting* written and performed by Rebecca Alworth, Larry Larson and Levi Lee who hail from the splendidly named Southern Theatre Conspiracy in Atlanta. The play deals with a white man, a revivalist tub-thumper, his simple-minded daughter and a doubting son who set off in a trailer for Canada after stealing the girl's vegetable-child from a laboratory. The preacher, having christened the baby Jesus O'Garbo, aims to proclaim the Second Coming at a Moose Jaw revivalist meeting; and the play shows how his plans are ingeniously foiled.

Tent—Meeting—(which should be picked up in Britain) is like a cross between

Elmer Gantry and Joe Egg. But what is remarkable is its blend of satirical vigour and religious strangeness: it mocks revivalist excess without denying spiritual values.

The play's most powerful image is that of the paternalist preacher attempting to beat his son with a fall attached to a crucifix. But its capacity to unsettle is symbolised by the moment when the daughter lyrically sings about being "raped by God" and by a scene in which a cradle containing the vegetable-child glows with light, moves across the stage of its own volition and causes a typewriter to tap out a message.

One of the good things about the Louisville Festival is that it gives one a sense of the diversity of America. Having pinned down Southern religiosity and violence, it went on to harpoon Texan chauvinism and romance in *The Very Last Lover Of The River* by James McLaure. Mr McLaure is the author of two dazzling Texan plays (*Love Star* and *Pr Wars*) that started at Louisville and were produced by the Bush; and here he came up with a comic, unpretentious car-wreck play chiefly remarkable for the longest fight-scene I have ever seen on the stage.

But the rest of the Louisville programme was very good. We had an ingenious one-act, Murphy Guyer's *The American Century*, about a 1945 couple getting a vision of the future from their yet-to-be-born son: a 50-60 piece about marital decay, *War of the Roses* by Lee Blessing, with too many theatrical echoes; a depressing piece about coping with cancer, *Hide the Dark Horse*, by J. F. O'Keefe, that seemed like a shadow of *The Shadow Box*; and a piece of mystic tosh, *Available Light*, by Heather McDonald, about a boy with bird-like pretensions in 1832 Normandy that obstinately failed to fly.

Louisville, at its best, gives one a graphic indication of current American concerns: at its worst, it sends plays into the world half-made-up. As this exuberant unique Festival nears its tenth birthday, I would be happy to see fewer and better plays, more sidish events dealing with the state of American theatre and, above all, a commitment by the next generation of dramatists to the full-length form. America needs plays of ideas. At the moment what we are often getting are ideas for plays.

Edward Greenfield reviews baroque operas

The real thing

FAR grander in scale than any earlier works that survive in the repertoire, Monteverdi's great masterpiece, the opera *Orfeo* of 1607 and the *Vespers* of 1610, leap the centuries with their freshness, their everlasting modernity, their range of expression extraordinary for the period.

Not surprisingly even in performances attempting a degree of authenticity the scale of forces used has attempted to match the scale of argument. *Orfeo* after all takes a big theme, and the widening collection of canonic and psalm-settings that makes up the *Vespers* seems apt for St Mark's in Venice.

The opposite view is now taken in two vivid and invigorating sets that arrive simultaneously on HMV's Red Box label: the *Vespers* from Andrew Parrott conducting the Taverner Consort and Players (EX 27 0123 3 two discs) and *Orfeo* with Nigel Rogers both taking the title role and simultaneously directing forces including London Baroque and the London Cornett and Sackbut Ensemble (EX 27 0131 3 two discs).

What Andrew Parrott has done with the *Vespers* is to reject the idea of cathedral grandeur in favour of presenting the piece as a liturgical whole, setting it in a small-scale church acoustic complete with antiphons in Gregorian chant. He argues that one voice per part would have been the norm in Monteverdi's day, with the full choir used only for occasional comment and heightening.

The result here may lack sheer physical weight, but the natural gravity of the music compensates for the more intensely you might still object to the use of female voices for the soprano lines, but Parrott — making his selection of singers for boyish purity of tone — intends that they provide "the closest available approximation" to the sound of castri as used originally.

Emma Kirkby and Nigel Rogers, soloists in the *Vespers*, return for *Orfeo*, Miss Kirkby's part being an important prologue. Mr Rogers for his part takes double duty. Ten years ago in DG Archiv's Hamburg recording of *Orfeo* conducted by Kurt Jurgens, Rogers recorded the title role with a brilliant but inflexible unmatched before or since, but, set in a reverberant hall, the recording inflated the whole performance.

This time Rogers has modified his extraordinarily elaborate ornamentation in *Orfeo*'s brilliant pleading aria before Charon, but the result is all the freer and wider-ranging in expression. The curious timbre of his voice with its very distinctive flutter may not please everyone but with the central singer directing the rest, the concentration of the whole performance is all the greater, telling the story simply and graphically.

The sound of thunder that makes *Orpheus* turn around fatefully as he leads Euridice back to earth is all the more dramatic for being dryly percussive, and Euridice's plaint, beautifully sung by Patricia Kweila, is the more affecting for being accompanied very simply on the lute. The other soloists make a good team, though Jennifer Smith as Prosperine,

recorded close, is made to sound breathy. In both those Monteverdi recordings the brightness of the cornetti in the instrumental accompaniment is a delight.

A welcome addition to the relatively short list of complete Handel opera recordings is Tamerlano, also done on period instruments with Jean-Claude Malgoire directing *La Grande Ecurie et La Chambre du Roy* (CBS 15M 37898 three discs). This is less abrasive than Malgoire's earlier recordings of Rameau, but in its quest for brightness misses much of Handelian charm and sparkle.

Yet Malgoire consistently brings out the originality of the work. Written 14 years before Xerxes (Serse), which recently made so sharp an impact at the Coliseum in the ENO production, Tamerlano similarly takes the theme of a tyrant ruler playing fast and loose with love. Again the title role was originally given to a castrato, and here the warm-toned countertenor, Henri Ledroit, provides a fine contrast with the equally stylish Rene Jacobs, taking the other castrato role of Andronico.

Musically Tamerlano claims distinction for containing the first major tenor role in baroque opera, Bajazet, well sung here except for heavily aspirated divisions by John Elwes. There is also an amazing — if disappointingly brief — trio for three of the central characters, full of quick and dramatic exchanges in agitated dotted rhythms, a striking departure from baroque convention.

The two sopranos, both bright-toned and agile, are well contrasted, Mieke van der Stuis as Astoria, Isabella Poulenard as Irene, though the edge on the latter's voice is hardly apt for so sweet a character.

Concert dates

Igor Oistrakh/Natalia Zerkalova, Barbiton, today 1. Unaccompanied Bach (the 3 minor Sonatas) and Beethoven's Kreutzer. Arditti Quartet, Purcell Room, tonight 7.30. The Park Lane Group's adventurous series on the British string quartet presents James Wood, Christopher Redgate and Brian Ferryhouse set against Beethoven's Grosse Fuge and Tippett's Quartet No. 4.

LSO/Abbado/Canino/Ballista, Barbiton tomorrow 7.45. Only top prize seats now for the Fifth Symphony. James Wood/Clive Williamson, Wigmore, Friday 7.30. As well as composing, Wood is a brilliant percussionist. Here he joins Williamson and John Whitting as sound projectionist in Stockhausen's Kontakte for piano, percussion and live electronics. Also Boulez's Piano Sonata No. 2.

BBC Symphony Orchestra/Groves/Kirshbaum, Festival Hall, Monday, 7.30. All-British, with Kirshbaum in the Elgar Cello Concerto, Bliss's Processional and Walton's Symphony No. 1. RPO/Masur/Oistrakh, Festival Hall, Tuesday, 7.30. More Elgar, the Violin Concerto, but from unexpected interpreters, Igor Oistrakh and the distinguished principal conductor of the Leipzig Gewandhaus. Also Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 2, the Little Russian.

TELEVISION

Hugh Hebert

Oscar



Michael Gambon as Oscar

YOU can dress him in a white suit and a green carnation and hang him with dialogue made from stolen chains of stolen swivel epi-grams. You can give him some lines so awful that they might be authentic — "Dear boy," he tells Lilla Bosse, who is punting him up the Cherwell, "You are a marvellous creature, like a narcissus."

You can, in short, serve up all the clichés about Oscar Wilde for the umpteenth time and get away with it because he is played by Michael Gambon, who is an excellent actor. For the purposes of Oscar (BBC2), the importance of being Gambon is that it is difficult either to dislike or to laugh at him unless that is exactly what he intends.

John Hawkesworth's three-part play starts when Wilde first meets Lord Alfred Douglas, though the script implies that there was little or no sex in this relationship, and spends a lot of time offering explanations or excuses for Oscar's behaviour.

There are the obligatory domestic scenes proving Wilde's affection for his family, there's the doctor warning him that his syphilis has recurred, so he must lay off his wife Constance. "For how long?" he asks incredulously. "Forever!" So off he goes to the rent boys who will eventually betray and testify against him, just a few months after Parliament has voted to make homosexual acts in private a criminal offence.

And there is, of course, that born villain Lord Queensberry — presented here as a vindictive lunatic by Norman Rodway. "A man cannot be too careful in the choice of his enemies," Wilde wrote, and then promptly chose in London, who was all for fair play in the ring, but out of it all in favour of the quick knee in the groin.

Gambon doesn't make Wilde as brusquely masculine, even in his encounters with Queensberry. Peter Flich did in the cinema version, but he doesn't camp it up. Either, what he does superbly is to reconcile the witty surface, the vulnerabil-

ity of the man, and the streak of sheer recklessness. Half the excitement of his forays with the renters, he says, is the danger, "like feasting with panthers."

There's a Robin Lermitta who is 23, and who makes Lord Alfred a petulant innocent nothing like what John Bayley called "that archetypal diabolic boyfriend." I suppose this helps Hawkesworth's platonic view of the relationship.

The trouble is that when he is not recycling Wilde's own lines, Hawkesworth's script gives the viewer *The Sword Divided* — bears a close resemblance to uncooked dough. Bosse scarcely has a decent line all through, and that makes it almost impossible to believe that Oscar could have got over five minutes' entertainment, platonic or otherwise, out of the glided impudent. Yet Gambon's massive, commanding presence keeps you watching. Tonight, the trials, tomorrow, prison, decline and fall.

ICA

John Fordham

Company

THE THEORY that the one thing you can rely on is uncertainty continues to be borne out musically by the ever-changing free-improvising ensemble Company, which appeared at the ICA last night with five performers who played spontaneous music in a variety of permutations. The founder of the project, the British guitarist Derek Bailey, is the still point in Company's turning world, present at every event.

Monday night's version was particularly strong on virtuosity. The German trumpeter Konrad Bauer is an ingenious performer at free music or in more conven-

tional settings, capable of combining the instrument's traditional beefiness and bluster with an extraordinary subtlety of delicate, high-pitched sounds, the sustaining power of circular breathing. The violinist, Philip Wachsmann, is an ex-classical player with a penchant for electronics. Drummer Jerry Hemingway, a fierce, bullish performer, is a regular partner of the brilliant American saxophonist Anthony Braxton, and Bailey — increasingly finding a midpoint between atonality and conventional structure in recent times — is virtually an institution.

Cellist Ernst Reisinger was the fifth member of the ensemble, and his revelation. He began in a trio with Bailey and Hemingway, mixing shrill, whistling sounds with sustained, dolorous chords, frequently while Hemingway would use his hands rather than sticks, producing a pliable, rubbery sound; the exchange turned into something close to a skewed and perverse form of orthodox jazz ballad playing, Reisinger playing guitar-like arpeggios.

Another duo followed, for Hemingway and Bauer, in which the trombonist veered between elephantine trumplings and simultaneously played notes that created plush harmonies as rich as an organ. But it was a trio exploration between the drummer, the violinist and the cellist that produced the most fruitful musical exchanges of the night.

After an opening dangerously close to a Latin pulse, Reisinger — utterly straight-faced — delivered some perfectly executed baroque cello phrases, before swapping the regular instrument for a skeletal black electric version.

Hemingway abandoned his drums at this point, and opted for belabouring the radiators and the blinds. Reisinger meanwhile standing his bow on end and rubbing the cello against it in a crazed, pogoing stance.

EXETER

Nicolas Cottis

No Man's Land

A WEIRD drinks cupboard that looks like a dishevelled host is most at his ease, perhaps because his natural intonation, a sort of ecclesiastical singsong, is slightly unreal. Alan Cullen, in the role of bookish visitor, sends up the mannerisms of the properly educated with a sly humour that was much appreciated. Terry John and Philip Bloomfield de liver neatly contrasted studies in cockney insolence, including one of excursions through the London street guide.

Down below, two elderly literary gentlemen and two disrespectful attendants pass the time of day, helping themselves and each other to vodka, Scotch whisky, bottled ale, coffee and champagne. They talk, too. Sometimes they appear to be listening to each other and sometimes not. Sometimes they are courteous, and sometimes ap- palling rude.

Mike Burnside's direction emphasises the ritual formality of the scenes, as these four edgy characters stalk each other around the drinks.

Naturalism can be a hard taskmaster in these circumstances, but the actors rise to the technical challenge.

BRISTOL

David Foot

Fen

AS A broadly structured piece of back-bending, mind-boggling East Anglian rural drama, spawned by Caryl Churchill alongside *Joint Stock*, *Fen* is a singular disappointment.

It isn't as much untidy as unsubstantial. The play's creators begin with their feminist statement and then doggedly, and too often melodramatically, add the human flesh. That *Fen* doesn't work for half the time is less the fault of the Bristol University drama department — though some of the early scenes are inaudible or, in the case of the well observed Japanese bus-

nessman, at times unintelligible — than Caryl Churchill and her collaborators.

In this same Glynne Wickham theatre in Bristol, the Department did a splendid job with *Lark Rise* not long before *Fen* seemed a logical extension. But it turns out ingenious and unrealistic as an exercise in the exploitation of women and, alas, nondescript quality theatre.

Tim Crouch's direction has an eye to rural detail and the surrealism is pointed up quite well. The versatile acting is mostly good, though one or two are taking their lines as if in a rush to get their farm clothes off and catch the last bus home across the Downs. The feeling of a closed, mundane, helpless community is captured.

But I grew up in a vaguely similar atmosphere and got precious little from this appeal to the political conscience. It was never strong nor significant enough.

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Sir Keith's parting prospectus

If the word on the political grapevine is right and Sir Keith Joseph is approaching the end of his Cabinet career, then yesterday's white paper, *Better Schools*, may be seen as the epitaph to his four years as Education Secretary. And a curiously restrained and low key message it conveys. What a contrast with the clarion phrases, the glib certainties and the uninterrupted vision of a new educational world which Sir Keith's less scrupulous colleagues have dangled from the bustings. Parent power? Never heard of it, says the white paper. Where once Sir Keith argued that parents should have a majority of school governing bodies, now a more balanced representation is proposed. Back to basics, with the emphasis on the "Three Rs"? A "mistaken belief", we now learn. Better discipline in the classroom? Only a minority problem. Education vouchers? The words do not suitly yesterday's new document.

These little retreats, compromises and omissions, some of them very important, add up to a document without a great central theme. Unless, of course, a policy can be held together merely by uncertainty, could do better is the tone, rather than anything on the epic scale. It is largely a restatement, with new emphases, not a major shift in policy. In that sense the white paper singularly lacks the ideological or political glamour of the Government's companion proposals for young people. It doesn't have thechutzpah of Mr Norman Fowler's withdrawal of benefit from school-leavers or the audacity of Lord Young's doubling of the Youth Training Scheme. Not that *Better Schools* is wholly without new ideas. There are the changes in governing bodies, which will be embodied in new legislation before the next election. These will significantly extend the role of parent governors and diminish the role of those appointed by the local authority. Then there is the new AS level exam for sixth-formers. This is an attempt (and no more than that) to broaden the curriculum so that higher education bound pupils (a growing proportion when jobs are hard to find) are less narrowly defined as either "arts" or "science." Whether it will

achieve this aim is another matter, of course. From here, the AS part of the sixth-form course looks awfully like a resentment inducing extra chore rather than a fresh intellectual perspective.

Such proposals don't take anyone very far towards what the white paper describes as the task of equipping young people for the world of the 21st century. Very few of today's schoolchildren will still be at school in the next century. But many of today's teachers will. And while *Better Schools* is full of plans for improving teaching quality, it also provides ample reminders of the Government's own responsibility for the climate of lowered morale into which any reforms will be launched. This is particularly true of hard cash. It may be all desirable to weed out bad teachers. It may even be necessary, as the paper's currently most politically contentious paragraph says, to take new powers to enforce regular teacher assessment. But to say these things when your teachers are so mutinous over their pretty rotten pay is wrong in principle and naive too. Sir Keith has in many ways been a better Education Secretary than his predecessors. But all counts for nothing if, like Sir Keith, you don't pay a decent rate to the people on whose enthusiasm you must rely to make the educational progress you want.

What kind of inquiry?

The Home Secretary is expected to announce to the Commons today the level and duration of the new television licence fee and the terms of a new inquiry into the financing of the BBC. As to the sum, he has presumably made up his mind: if it is in the £28-£30 range, it will be counted a decent decision, but only if he also guarantees a two-year term, the minimum to let the BBC make a proper stab at forward planning.

But that is this afternoon's business. This morning we would focus Mr Brittan's mind on the scope and purpose of the inquiry he will set up. He has three traditional options: the Fix; the Cop-Out; or the Honest Question. Which will he choose? By its terms shall we know him. The least likely, on this Government's record, is the Cop-Out, the long-term Royal Commission or similar gathering of the great and good which will take an age to summon and an eternity to report: the politics of the back-burner, and indeed not

the way to cope with broadcasting in the 1980s. Most probable, on the same recent record, is the Fix, the small handpicked group given the limited questions to produce the acceptable answers at the double. Mr Brittan knows more than most about that technique and its results, because it is how the Information Technology Advisory Panel came to hype cable television to the Prime Minister, and it is how his own department, then got Lord Hunt's trio to back out a regulatory framework for the same half-baked notions. The Fix, it is a fair bet, will end in tears.

Mr Brittan must insist on going for the honest question. The future financing of the BBC will not fit the bill for, on its own, it begs the real questions. Some of them are already sitting on his own desk. The ITV companies await a decision only a shade less important to them and Channel 4 than the licence fee is to the BBC, about the way the levy imposed on them by the Treasury will henceforth be computed. The Independent Local Radio companies, fully backed by the advertising industry, have this month prayed him to re-think the structure in which the commercial radio system must struggle for its profits as the Home Office gets its ideas on a whole new raft of community radio together. How can anyone form a view on the role or financing of BBC radio, networked or local, without considering that?

But this is mere fiddling in the foothills of the media mountain. Only last week, we pointed to the rapid concentration of capital and power across all the media, as exemplified by the empires of Murdoch, Maxwell, and Matthews. Within hours came the announcement of Rupert Murdoch's half-share of Twentieth Century Fox. Within the week came the declaration of United Newspapers that they want to buy out Lord Matthews' Fleet, newspapers, magazines, TV-am, and all, to join Punch and the newer US publishing charivari. By the end of the year, ownership of Britain's media could be radically changed, and in every decision the mere existence of the BBC will play its part.

And ownership counts. Different structures produce different programmes, different newspapers. The Guardian is an example of that. So is Channel Four: it is too easy now for happy commercial lobbies to forget how radical was the struggle not just to have "TV-2" and so is the BBC. It is precisely in the context of these things that a Government and society committed to

The vote and the answers

There is to be no compulsory levy to support sacked miners. (That is the democratic result of the Mineworkers' ballot.) Meanwhile, members of the Civil and Public Services Association are to be allowed a secret strike ballot after all. (That is the decision of the lawyers.) Ballots are undoubtedly the flavour of the month. Mr Peter Carter, industrial organiser of the Communist Party, admitted as much in this month's issue of the party's theoretical journal, *Marxism Today*. He was analysing what went wrong with the miners' strike, from the point of view of the Left. The refusal to allow a ballot split the union and, he said, legitimised the refusal of other unions to provide "physical support" (strikes rather than money) to aid the miners. A similar interpretation can be read in recent Mori polls. On the one hand the polls registered a significant swing back to Labour amongst trade union members. On the other they showed a continuing 75 per cent in favour of ballots before strikes are called.

Now turn to the events of the past week. The National Union of Teachers unwillingly held a national ballot after overwhelming legal pressures from one authority (Solihull) required them to do so. Whereupon the teachers voted overwhelmingly, to support the dispute and to endorse the withdrawal of a "cover" as recommended by their union. On Friday, the Treasury threatened to seek a writ which would have forced the Civil and Public Services Association to ballot its members before calling a one-day strike on April 1. (A series of policy decisions by the union's governing bodies require the CPSA to ignore the Government's "anti-union" legislation whilst continuing to employ its own branch level consultative machinery.) When the ultimatum arrived the union was in the midst of its own exercise in consultation and a number of officers, feared for the results. Privately the executive suspected that the rank and file were less keen on a fight to the finish than was the dominant, militant faction on the deeply divided ex-

ecutive. Now the executive has narrowly decided to obey "Rebbit's Law." None of which means that the CPSA will automatically reject the strike call which unites left and right on the national executive. Indeed, many officials argue that the state imposed ballot (designed to maximise the divisions within the assorted unions) could, paradoxically unite the membership. All of which fits well with the experience of Ted Heath's Industrial Relations Act.

The only time the ballot provisions of that Act were used was in the course of a rail dispute in which the leadership looked distressingly vulnerable. Came the ballot and the "undemocratic" call for disruptive action was triumphantly endorsed. Beneath the surface, it is possible to make out a pattern. Union members want to be consulted before they are instructed to strike or forced to pay into compulsive fighting funds. But, if they feel they have a genuine grievance, they are quite prepared to endorse the decisions of their leaders. More so when those leaders are perceived to be under one sided legal pressures. The lesson for the Government and for prudent employers must be that unpopular strikes can, indeed, be undermined by legally imposed ballots. But, equally, democratic consultation is inclined to endorse campaigns in support of genuinely felt grievances.

Lines to a don or two

Remote and ineffectual don
Who dared attack rich Uncle Ron.
Who doubted Milton, mocked at
Keith,
And fawned upon that traitor
Heath —
Alliance fodder, I'll be bound,
And academically unsound —
I've got my own back now, you see
(I'd get my heart on that degree)
By getting folk to think you funny
For not treating lots of money.
Two hundred grand? Does that sound
high
For making stinks at ICI?
And since this region of my realm
Is safely policed, and near Dunelm
Where Jenkins says his George's God
Is cross when children go unshod,
He'd better listen: on the dote
They'll need that everlasting sole:
St Francis never made a fuss
And he was always One of Us.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

How our local democracies are being sucked into the whirlpool of Tory centralism

Sir, — You report (March 25) Mr Kenneth Baker's statement at Newcastle upon Tyne that "the link between rate demands and the ballot box is wearing thin": he then goes on to refer to accountability.

Jeremy Seabrook (Agenda March 25) identifies a direct relationship between the increase in robbery and other crimes on the one hand and the decay of political radicalism on the other.

Both in different ways are — though they do not say so — concerned with the concept of democracy which an increasing number of ordinary people feel is "on the blink" in this country. All of us need reminding that the literal meaning of democracy is "people" and "kratos" — power; and we should be asking ourselves whether the link between the two is becoming increasingly tenuous.

If the link between rate demands and the ballot box is wearing thin, what about the link between a government of any party and the ballot box at national elections when only 31 per cent of the electorate can produce a massive majority in Parliament? And on accountability, how can it be that quangos whose members are appointed under government patronage, are now responsible for administering a larger proportion of public funds than elected local authorities?

The problem about Jeremy Seabrook's political radicalism is that the further power moves away from the people with increasing centralism on all fronts, the fewer outlets there are for alternative views and the less chance of effectively influencing the course of affairs: hence the real danger of "overkill" in relation both to local government and the trade unions on present plans.

To quote from a letter written by George Washington to another subject: "It might be well to inquire how far the measure would meet general approbation." If democracy is to survive in this country, there is a crying need for reversal of the process of centralism which has been going on for 20 years or more — increasingly in the last 5 years — and for



more attention to "general approbation." Nothing illustrates this better than the seemingly total disregard of the widely held view that this last Budget should have concentrated on positive measures to reduce the 4 million people eating their hearts out "on the dote." — Yours faithfully, J.P.P. Hughes, Brookside, Milford, Stafford.

Sir, — The massive police presence and the sight of a prime minister scurrying furtively through side doors must have raised many eyebrows on the day Maggie Thatcher visited Tyneside.

Have the people of Britain changed so much since 1979 that they must be held back like animals from seeing and cheering what should be the most popular person in Britain? Are we moving to an authoritarian police state where political will and not the people's interests are the order of the day?

In recent years political leaders of all persuasions have mingled freely and affectionately throughout the city of Newcastle upon Tyne: witness the love and warmth shown to Jimmy Carter. There is no evidence that Georges have become subhuman.

Mrs Thatcher has been trying to instil fear in the voters' hearts about erosion of freedom. Reds under the bed, Russian tanks, grim-faced Soviet leaders etc. How does she feel about being one of the least popular people in Britain? — Yours faithfully, W. D. CAMPBELL, West Lane, Winton, Tyne and Wear.

Sir, — The Local Government Bill has emerged unchanged from its guillotined Commons committee stage apart from a few minor drafting amendments. Many questions are left unanswered, many problems unsolved. The only major change now proposed is a completely unjustified retrospective power to control contracts of more than £15,000.

This legislation affecting the welfare of no less than 13 million people continues along a parliamentary course so circumscribed that it is surely an affront to the democratic process by which this government sets so much store. To cut short debate in this manner on the most controversial legislation of this parliament is inexcusable, particularly when more than 50 per cent of the 5,000 or so responses to the Government's original White Paper opposed its proposals.

We shall nonetheless renew our attempts to secure, through the parliamentary process, Government answers to questions of fundamental importance on costs, future standards of service, and the like. And we shall continue to press for what the metropolitan counties have called for from the start: a proper inquiry into all the issues so that a proper debate can take place. — Yours, M. Campbell, Tyne and Wear County Council; J.B. Clarke, Greater Manchester County Council; E.C. Coombes, Merseyside County Council; J. Gannell, West Yorkshire County Council; G. Morgan, West Midlands County Council; R. Thwaites, South Yorkshire County Council.

Yet in early 1974, a previous confidential Home Office document written by Mr David Lane when he returned from visiting posts in the sub-continent at a time when delays were approaching their peaks, stated that processing of applications must not be speeded up so as to reverse the reduction in the annual settlement total of which the Government had boasted.

This admission of the policy of the last Conservative Government was edited out of the version of his report put before incoming ministers after the February 1974 election, but referred to in reports and Select Committee evidence which I wrote for the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants. There has only ever been one serious attempt to speed

The educational half-truths of Mary Warnock

Sir, — It saddens me that someone as intelligent and influential as Baroness Warnock should be sweeping generalisations about teachers in her Dimbleby Lecture (Guardian, March 22).

As a retired headmaster I am well aware that much is wrong with too many teachers and too many schools. But how can Baroness Warnock talk about parents with such certainty?

In my experience of primary schools, there is a far better relationship between parents and teachers than there was a generation ago when parents were kept out of schools and were rarely consulted. It is quite wrong to be so dismissive of parents' co-operation and to say, when working well, is of inestimable value to the school.

As for not "aping the social worker," this again is misleading oversimplification. Of course a teacher's job is to devote most energy to teaching but, particularly in primary schools, teachers can no longer make a distinction between their teaching role and their pastoral role. The reasons are complex.

In part it is because parents have a need to talk about problems affecting their children's education. The social services often do

not work at the individual parent level. And I long ago concluded that one cannot or should not separate children's intellectual growth and school progress from their emotional stability and self-regard.

I am very suspicious of the talk of rewarding the more efficient teachers with extra money. Superficially the idea seems attractive. But the teaching profession should not be judged by business criteria as though the best teachers are the best businessmen. Does Baroness Warnock suggest doctors should be judged in this way?

By all means give extra money to those teachers willing to take on a prodigious time, but let this not be a "fiddle" with so-called "posts of special responsibility." The most valued qualities in a teacher are not measurable in a precise way and may not be observable on an inspector's one visit.

Most of what is wrong in education today is due to society undervaluing teachers. Nowhere is this more true than in the attitude of the Government, which starves the education service of funds; makes apparent its contempt for teachers; and then complains when they go on strike.

Of course teachers should

not have to go on strike. But the Government must pay its teachers the profession. Will it put its money where its mouth is? I think not.

Baroness Warnock should abandon her obsession with the so-called political indoctrination and spend more time on her homework. A half-truth is a gross injustice to the thousands of dedicated teachers in all kinds of schools. — Yours faithfully, Denis Tye, Devon.

Sir, — Why all this fuss over indoctrination? Surely this is what education is and always has been about? Is not the point that some local education authorities and some teachers are practising the "wrong" forms of indoctrination? That is, the values they preach are not those of the present Government.

"Indoctrinate" the children in my charge with the values and beliefs of a multicultural society. But is this "right"? Swann would argue that it is; but many of the parents of children I teach are quite vehemently opposed to these beliefs. Whose system of values do I preach?

I teach that it is usually a better idea to solve a problem by discussion and reasoning rather than by bul-

lying tactics. And yet the Government, by countless examples, does not agree with its own standards, she says. I try to advocate a policy of care and concern for all members of society, where the strong should help the weak; but again present governmental policy seems to run counter to this.

As a professional, and teachers are professionals, the decision to teach these values is not arrived at lightly. I spend time reading inspectors' reports and professional journals in an attempt to gauge the climate of opinion in which I must teach and thus hope to arrive at a balanced judgment.

What I try not to do is to employ one set of beliefs simply because one pressure group says I should.

If Baroness Warnock wishes the teaching profession to raise its standards, she should be attacking the one body which is trying to exert its values and beliefs above all others, and in force teachers to indoctrinate children with them. A balanced curriculum cannot be achieved if the Government does not allow the professionals to exercise their judgement. — Yours faithfully, Simon Milder, 63 Bankside Lane, Bacup, Lancashire.

Sir, — The McCarthy-style tactics employed by those groups intent on hounding the head of Bradford's Drummond Middle School out of his job should disturb everyone concerned for the future of education in this country, and anxious to preserve freedom of expression within the law.

No one who has read what Ray Honeyford has written could reasonably classify him as a racist. Indeed one of his concerns is that the educational policies he criticises facilitate against the best interests of ethnic minority groups. People are free to disagree with his interpretation; but they do nothing to advance their cause by attempting to suppress his voice.

We have in this country a tradition of free and open discussion of all matters of public interest, including policies for education. Among the principal beneficiaries of this tradition are the political and educational Left. If it succeeds in denying this right to those who find their arguments shallow and unconvincing, it will undermine something which affords as much protection to itself as to its opponents. — Yours faithfully, Lawrence Norcross, Highbury Grove School, London N5.

Sir, — Your leader of March 20 about the Wick "nuclear device" test was uncharacteristically complacent.

Whether the inhabitants of Caithness should "go on their knees in gratitude for the soggy climate which killed the idea" is not, I think, the point. The point is that the area was even considered by Ministry of Defence scientists.

Unfortunately for the Aborigines, their homeland was chosen, but we know full well in what regard white settlers have held their rights and welfare. I do not think Scots will feel "gratitude" that they escaped the same fate and I doubt whether your leader would have led the same way had the area in question been Watford or Woking. — Yours faithfully, Donald Stewart, MP (Scott Nat. Western Isles), House of Commons.

We may not think like Arthur Scargill, but we do consider a "clean-coal strategy" to be an essential component of a more sustainable energy future, based on conservation and the development of renewable energy sources. — Yours sincerely, Jonathan Ferris, Friends of the Earth, London, ECL.

1985 brochure puts it "already paying huge dividends." — Yours sincerely, (Dr) John Wrench, University of Warwick.

Sir, — To call the Bishop of Durham a cuckoo is a jibe worthy of the gutter tabloids. Is Mrs Thatcher's humour — or that of her speech-writers wearing as thin as her policies? Or is there something prophetic in this reference to a bird which is adept at removing sitting tenants from their nests? — Yours faithfully, (The Rev.) R. J. Penny, 49 Lockhart Rd, Ellingham, Suffolk.

Sir, — Your leader of March 20 about the Wick "nuclear device" test was uncharacteristically complacent.

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A COUNTRY DIARY

OXFORDSHIRE: Almost all of the colour in the garden at the moment with the exception of primrose varieties and that doubtful native, the snowdrop, is of foreign origin. Some of the subjects, such as crocus and tulip, are old and hybrid, and some early irises, have been so long established that they are regarded as typical cottage garden plants, whilst others, such as the now ubiquitous forsythia just coming into bloom, are comparative newcomers, dating from the opening up of trade with the Far East in the middle of the last century. But, for all the forsythia by some weeks the pride of place in my garden is

now occupied by another yellow-flowered shrub of far superior quality — the copeland cherry (Cornus mas). It has always puzzled me that although this southern European dogwood was introduced to English gardens at least 400 years ago, it has never become a "must" as the more vulgar forsythia has become for both suburban and cottage gardens.

The early blooming of myriads of tiny yellow bunches of stars on bare twigs is not the only virtue of this shrub, for eventually, when the bush is becoming almost a tree after 20 years or so, fruiting becomes regular. Here I have to declare a personal interest, for I dis-

covered long ago, having a friend's ancient specimen at my disposal, that the scarlet, almost transparent "cherries" are so thin-skinned that their succulent pulp is readily available, and greedily consumed, even by soft-billed birds such as warblers and wrens. The 21-year-old specimen which I left in my last garden when I retired fruited abundantly in the following year: its offspring in my present garden just bore a few fruits last year, at about 15 years old, and I shall be lucky if I live to see it, in some distant July or August, swarming with appreciative warblers, wrens and thrushes. — W. D. CAMPBELL

THE AGONY aunt of a national newspaper recently received a letter from a distraught family about their dog. Finding him too large and boisterous, they had decided to find him another home. Telephone inquiries had led them to a local kennels which agreed, for a handling fee of £10, to re-house the pet.

Two days later, overcome with remorse, they decided to retrieve him. But the owner of the kennels claimed that he had gone to a new owner and that it would be quite wrong to disrupt him. When the family said they were sure the dog had been adopted so quickly and asked the new owner's name, two thick-set men appeared and persuaded them to leave the premises.

Further inquiries among animal welfare organisations revealed that this particular kennel is notorious for its links with laboratories where scientific experiments are carried out on animals. But while the owner was seriously misrepresenting her activities, she was not infringing any current law on the trade in laboratory animals, for the law governing their treatment in research establishments is still the 1876 Cruelty to Animals Act, and the new nothing about monitoring supply routes from animal dealers to licensed laboratory premises.

Nor is this family's experience unique. In the year the law was passed, there were 270 experiments, performed by 23 licensees. In 1983, figures had risen to 3,624,191 and 11,582. As Brian Cunn, of the National Anti-Vivisection Society points out, with 508 premises licensed to experiment on animals, the demand for them is brisk. The financial inducement to use stray dogs from unspecified sources is strong.

Next month, however, the Government will introduce an amended White Paper which will form the basis for new legislation to be introduced as soon as parliamentary time permits, and one of the many issues it will deal with is the source of laboratory animals. In the words of a Home Office spokesman, "The new law seems to make it impossible for the family pet to end up in a laboratory." In future, all animals used in research would have to come from registered breeding and supplying establishments.

Perhaps the most important feature of the new law will be the Animal Procedure Committee, whose function will be to advise the Home Secretary on the questions of procedure, trends in scientific work, development of alternatives to animal experiment and revisions in the law. It will be made up of both scientists who are licensed to carry out experiments and of members of animal welfare organisations, and it is particularly significant that Clive Hollands, of the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Vivisection, has accepted an appointment to it.

The law governing the treatment of animals in research establishments is still the 1876 Cruelty to Animals Act. The Government is promising to strengthen protection for laboratory animals but Jane Poncia questions how effective a new law will be

The unacceptable face of research

In 1983, according to the official figures, 18,000 experiments on animals were concerned with testing cosmetics and toiletries; approximately one third of the total were non-medical, testing pollutants, herbicides and household products; 2,826,120 (though none involving surgery) were without anaesthetic. In that year, the 17 inspectors covering the whole country made 6,001 visits and found 35 infringements of the law, none of which resulted in prosecution.

The White Paper proposes

that the inspectorate should be strengthened and its powers extended to include the registered breeding and supplying establishments. Their personal knowledge of the licensees and their previous work will be taken into consideration by the Home Office when it grants project licences. Inspectors will continue to have the authority to order that an animal should be humanely killed if it is suffering pain following surgery. A named person will be appointed in each laboratory, who might be a senior

member of staff of a veterinary surgeon retained part-time; they would have day-to-day responsibility for the general welfare of the animals on the premises. The term "pain" has also been redefined, so that it covers not only the physical discomfort experienced during a scientific procedure, but also the suffering and distress caused by interference with the animal's well-being. This could cover the distress of animals imported from the wild, for instance, or held in restraining devices. As now,

every animal involved in a surgical procedure must be anaesthetised, and any animal suffering severe pain which is likely to endure must at once be painlessly killed. The introduction of a product licence is a significant step forward. This will force the applicant to explain to the Home Office the aims of and necessity for the project, how it will be conducted and the severity of the procedures for the animals involved. The Home Office's scrutiny will include decid-

ing whether the importance of the experiment justifies the suffering involved. This is not an approach that finds favour with animal welfare groups, which dislike the idea that an animal's pain should be so linked to the purpose of the research. Members of the animal rights groups are highly critical. One of what they know of the White Paper. They claim that the improvements are only minor, and that some procedures hitherto banned — like the use of animals in acquiring skills in micro-surgery —

would be permitted. They wonder whether the new provisions will really reduce the total number of experiments.

But campaigners who have worked with the animal welfare movement for many years do consider that ground has been won. They point to the Government's willingness to support alternatives to using animals in research. Although they would have liked more than the £200,000 grant it made to Frame (Fund for the Replacement of Animals in Medical Research), they feel it is only a matter of time before alternative methods replace the two most abhorred procedures — the Draize Eye Irritation Test and the LD50 Toxicity Test.

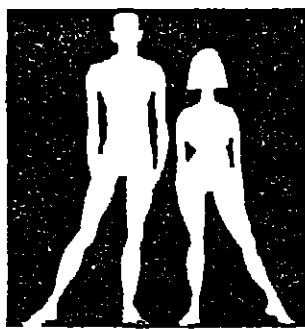
But scientists now carrying out research warn against undue optimism. Patrick Wall, professor of anatomy at University College, London, who is studying the problem of intractable pain, points out: "I need to examine the nervous system, in order to understand the flow of information within that structure, the jumping of nerve impulses from cell to cell. Frame is doing excellent work but their alternatives break down the animal's body into cells and molecules which is not helpful for my particular research."

Richard Ryder, chairman of the RSPCA animal experiment advisory committee, has ceased to experiment on animals in his work as a clinical psychologist. But he knows it is naive to rely too heavily on tissue culture. He feels, though, that scientists should be encouraged to experiment with microscopic dosages, which then could be measured by computer with great sensitivity. Under these circumstances, even human volunteers could be used and the findings would be more accurate.

Dr Judith Hampson, the RSPCA's chief animal experimentation officer, while deploring the use of animals in trivial experiments, cannot foresee an end to their being used in serious research. "The best hope of alleviating animal suffering is by examining the whole subject to see what can be reduced and grasping at every possible alternative. If you think that only by banning all experiments do you solve the problem, then you delay the reforms and the animals now in our laboratories are the losers."

"We, the public, have to recognise that the vast majority of experiments are in the medical, dental and veterinary fields. So do we want our children to be protected against polio and diphtheria? Do we want sufferers from manic depression and schizophrenia to be helped by drugs to lead a more normal life? Do we want our agricultural animals to be protected against disease? Do we want domestic pets against distemper and cat flu? These are some of the hard questions we must face up to."

Jane Poncia is a member of the SDP Animal Protection Group.



BODY AND SOUL

The art of doing nothing

JUST BECAUSE you're paranoid doesn't mean that they aren't out to get you. This we know, but sometimes it gets hard to make these distinctions. My friend Jane is actually not paranoid at all. She doesn't have time to be paranoid as a matter of course. I finally asked, "What do you think the administrators have in mind when they so positively resist providing these things? Is it a job like another to them?" By what you say, it can't possibly be money. Providing the things would, if you're right, actually save money, because it would either replace an existing system which costs more to run, or both. You're sure that that is actually true?

"Cross my heart," she replied. "We always make that quite clear and they don't usually dispute it. Their technique is much simpler. They just don't answer letters, and when they are finally forced to, they say that they are going to do something and then don't do it. Or they create a diversion. Because the rest of us have other work to do, simply keeping on like this will finally, if they're lucky, make the idea go away."

Why, however, does that make them lucky? What are their aims? At this point, of course, the tradition of farce takes over. From Dickens's barnacles on, administrators who will go to any lengths to avoid a public inquiry, a prime public joke, and when something is too good a joke, it gets hard to take it seriously any longer. We all know sane and reasonable administrators, and with the official half of our minds we tend to be slightly ashamed of the barnacle joke and think it can't be true.

But any time when we get into the web ourselves, along with Jane and her patients, we often find to our horror that that is perfectly true. Certainly good administrators do often manage to cut through the web. What needs doing does indeed sometimes get done. But it tends to be quite a delicate balance of efforts. On top of the understandable resistance of real vested interests — people with something solid to lose — there is also usually a ground base of resistance which is, on the face of things, entirely negative and pointless.

There must, we concluded, be a dismal sort of natural selection by which certain kinds of people got out of administration and others drifted in. Pat after this discussion comes the fascinating story in the Observer of how Mr. Olive Ponting began his civil service career as a shrewd and vigorous new broom in a Government efficiency drive, only to be repeatedly and offensively frustrated by their inarticulate inertia of the system, backed by the frivolity of ministers.

Before too many other promising administrators start to leave the public service in droves, can we have a committee to set up, in each department where it may be needed, a branch of Depressives Anonymous? The impartiality required of public servants is quite possibly a demand which puts their whole mental balance at risk, one which cannot safely be met for more than a dozen years or so on end. Prolonged administration, in fact, can perhaps damage your health. Let us have a Commission to look into the matter.

Mary Midgley

One day it might be you that they won't have a bed for

SECOND OPINION

"WHAT would you like, nurse: chocolates or tights?" A patient was being transferred to another hospital. Her daughter wanted to give the nurses a token of appreciation for the care we had given her mother. No-one replied. It was almost embarrassing, for nurses are rarely asked what they would like. Even when I explained she didn't need to give anything, and that her mother's care had just been part of our job, she was still insistent. "Is there anything, anything at all, that you would like?"

This was too much for me. "Yes," I said, "I'd like you to write a letter to our MP or our administrators or the press — anyone. Just make it public. Object to the hospital 'cuts', to our casualty being closed and the imminent closure of the Ear, Nose and Throat Hospital in Golden

Square. I could have continued but she'd started laughing. "I'll get you all some tights then," she said.

Blatantly ignored

I wasn't aware I'd made a joke. I was angry. There is a lot for nurses to be angry about. We constitute the largest working group in the National Health Service, yet our interests, at all levels, from student to senior nurse, are being blatantly ignored by management. How many of the general managers recently introduced have been or will be recruited from nurses? Only one out of the hundred or so appointments to date.

My Health Authority (Bromsbury) has to make efficiency savings of £14 million by the end of this month. It has to save another £4 million by the end of this year and release another £14 million to the Regional Health Authority by 1993. To achieve these targets "they" are "rationalising services,"

making "efficiency savings" and "re-organising internally."

I've had access to some reports and to a Joint Staff Consultative Committee so I've heard and read the jargon. I've listened to managers speaking of ward A moving to ward B from which six of Consultant X's beds will move to ward C, then of course ward D will require a high dependency unit so it can receive nine beds from another hospital — building work necessary but the ward won't have to close. (It did close... for two and a half weeks.)

"They" are quite pleased with themselves having worked out and had a long report and feasibility studies. I've been told the alternative to making these changes would be closing eleven wards.

Other hospitals have had to close wards: obvious cuts — obvious lack of funding. What is happening to us appears to be hidden cuts under the heading of internal re-organisation or transferring

services and to me it's all the more frightening for its very apparent obscurity.

What did I hear last month? I heard a midwife say that when our maternity department transfers over to University College Hospital, they have agreed to a further reduction in beds. It is the equivalent of our department being cut from 44 beds to six!

I heard that Tony, a third year student nurse, arrived at work towards the end of a 70-hour week of night-duty to discover his ward had been closed for building work (ward D remember?). Another student happened to be in the School of Nursing the following day speaking to a tutor about her concern for the rapid changes taking place within the hospital.

The tutor was sympathetic: a lot of changes were happening rather suddenly — in fact she'd just heard ward D was going to close temporarily with only a few days notice... The student informed her that it had — the day before.

Temperance Hospital is having all its wards transferred out (to stand empty for years) and St. Pancras Hospital has had two wards transferred as well. What has been lost or will be lost to accommodate these wards at the receiving hospital?

What did I hear this week? I heard our casualty is to close. Its services are being transferred to University College Hospital. The department sees about 35,000 people a year and of those it admits about 15,000. It was all decided at the District Health Authority meeting on March 6. It was even stated that a high proportion of these 35,000 people are just "junkies," "dossers," and old people.

A dearth of GPs

It is true that we cover Piccadilly, hence the drug addicts, and something like 70 per cent of the hospital's geriatric admissions pass through casualty. But tell me:

just who or what acceptable section of society is the National Health Service supposed to cater for?

There was also criticism that local people tend to use casualty as a GP surgery. This is not surprising, due to the dearth of GPs in this area.

We are not tucked away in some hidden backwater. The Middlesex Hospital is 200 yards from Oxford Street. What happens if the UCLH casualty has to close? It did for the day a couple of months ago. Then all their patients were shipped down to us. That won't be possible in the not-so-distant future, because we won't exist. What of the day-time population of central London? What about emergencies? Regent's Park, Harrod's bombings? There will be a less London casualty to cope.

What do I hear every day?

Tales of discontent, of disillusion among all types of nursing staff. Tales of shortages and of people arriving at the hospital for a

long awaited admission, to wait most of the day on a balcony, only to find there are no beds for them.

What do I want, chocolates or tights?

I want people to be aware of just what is happening to their Health Service. And if it's not too much to ask, to show some concern. There seems to be such complacency. How often have you heard "If you have an accident or are really seriously ill — well, of course, you'll have wonderful treatment — the health system in the world?" How often have you said it? If you've never said it, say it soon. For the death knell will be rung when you do yourselves one day it might be you that is refused admission because casualty can't find you a bed — that's if your casualty is open.

Angela Walsh

Angela Walsh is a student nurse and CUSE steward at Middlesex Hospital.

SKIN creams used by millions of acne sufferers to treat spots have been linked with cancer. Doctors and manufacturers have been alerted to the risks, but the creams are sold over the counter in chemists' shops and there are no warnings on the packaging. The Committee on Safety of Medicines has declined to launch an investigation on the grounds that no cases of cancer which might be attributable to the drug have been reported by doctors.

The chemical implicated in cancer is benzoyl peroxide. It is the active constituent of the most widely used acne creams. Brands include (Jesrail, Acetoxyl, Acnel, Benzoxyl, Debroxide, Panoxyl, Quinoderm, Theraderm, and Vanair.

A series of published reports from scientists show that benzoyl peroxide promotes the growth of the worst of the skin cancers, melanoma. This killed 853 people in England and Wales in 1983. The incidence of the disease — cancer of the skin pigment — is cells called melanocytes — is rising in the UK, North America, and Australia. Doctors from Queen's University, Belfast, reported in the Lancet last month that decreasing by melanoma were up to 9 per cent a year in up to 9 per cent a year in many countries.

It has been attributed to increasing exposure to ultra-violet rays in sunlight, ultra-violet light can initiate cancer. The latest data, pub-

lished in the British Journal of Cancer by Australian researchers at the University of Queensland, show that people who have suffered sunburns between two and five times more than double the risk of developing melanoma.

But at least two major steps are necessary for the growth of tumours: initiation and promotion. Scientists have found that while benzoyl peroxide does not initiate cancerous growth in skin cells, it does promote it.

The research has been conducted on animals, and the manufacturers of benzoyl peroxide creams maintain that the results do not necessarily show that humans are at risk.

Nevertheless, doctors are warning in the authoritative reference pharmacological reference book Side Effects of Drugs, edited by Dr M. G. N. Dukes, that caution should be taken

because "co-carcinogenic effects cannot be excluded."

Benzoyl peroxide, it points out, is a "known tumour promoter." It has been found to cause a marked and abnormal increase in the numbers of skin cells, and inhibits the chemical interchange of information between the cells.

A search of the international computerised database Medline has produced 24 reports from the US and France showing that benzoyl peroxide promotes cancer, specifically melanoma. Several studies found that it damaged the genetic material DNA. The damage "could underlie the phenomenon of tumour promotion," one team reported.

The report which triggered the warning to doctors in Side Effects of Drugs came from scientists at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Tennessee. Published in Science

magazine in 1981, it said: "A single topical application of benzoyl peroxide produced a marked epidermal hyperplasia and induced a large number of dark basal keratinocytes," effects similar to those produced by other known tumour promoters.

The researchers, led by Dr T. J. Slaga, reported, "In view of these results caution should be recommended." Benzoyl peroxide generates free oxygen radicals. The latest evidence on the effect on cells of increased concentrations of active oxygen and organic peroxides and radicals comes from Dr Peter Cerutti, head of the department of carcinogenesis at the Swiss Institute for Experimental Cancer Research in Lausanne. They affect genes that regulate cell differentiation and growth, he reported in Science earlier this year. Benign tumours are stimulated to more rapid

growth and malignancy. They cause genetic aberrations called sister chromatid exchanges.

Drug firms produced an estimated 7 million lbs of benzoyl peroxide last year. The bulk of it is used in the production of plastics. Some is used as an additive in cosmetics. Much of it goes into acne creams. Acne sufferers in the UK bought £17 million worth of these creams last year in the UK — £15 millions went on over-the-counter products from chemists' shops. The patients did not see their doctors.

Last summer, a biochemist and cancer specialist, Dr Robert Jones, wrote to benzoyl peroxide manufacturers and the Committee on Safety of Medicines, referring them to the published findings and asking what they proposed to do about the cancer risks.

Dr Victor Daniels, the medical director of one leading

manufacturer, Kirby-Warwick, replied: "We have no records of any firm between the topical use of Acnel (their brand name) and the development of skin cancer."

Dr Jones points out that few British GPs report adverse reactions to drugs and few are likely to see patients suffering from melanoma. Even those who do are unlikely to ask if their patients have ever used acne creams, and fewer still are likely to make a connection between the two. In those circumstances, it would be hardly surprising that if cases had occurred, they would not have been reported to the drug firms.

Dr Jones wrote to the CSM, after the committee rejected his request for an investigation: "I am sure that any doctor would dismiss instantly any connection between the use of benzoyl peroxide and the subsequent development of skin cancer in the highly unlikely event of a detailed correspondence with individuals who are unhappy about particular licensed products."

Gerald Jones may not know it, but he owes his job to that "unhappy individual." It was Robert Jones's expertise as a biochemist that led to the exposure of thalidomide.

peroxide might promote the growth of melanoma once tumours have been initiated, possibly by an over-dose of sun. Robert Jones published a detailed account of his assessment of the link between benzoyl peroxide and cancer in Human Toxicology last month.

The CSM, set up after the thalidomide tragedy to protect us against dangerous drugs, seems unconcerned. Gerald Jones finally wrote to Robert Jones: "We do not have the resources to conduct a detailed correspondence with individuals who are unhappy about particular licensed products."

After a lengthy correspondence, the medical assessor to the CSM, Dr Gerald Jones, wrote to him: "We are aware of the literature on tumour promotion and initiation and in the case of benzoyl peroxide we see no reason to alter the licensing position of the relevant products."

The concern is that acne creams containing benzoyl

One day Annie hadn't had a moment's illness in her life...

Central Training Officer

Salary £14,427-£15,459 Ref CE370

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This demanding post calls for the ability to effectively and purposefully manage and develop this large section and control its extensive training budgets.

You will be responsible for motivating the team, both individually and collectively, to provide training activities in a number of significant areas including Equal Opportunities, Management, New Technology, Health and Safety, opportunities for young people and meet all training needs of departments throughout the Council.

The ideal candidate will have a personnel/training background, although success in managing/developing individuals into a cohesive group, appraising staff, and managing financial resources is more important than specific experience as a Trainer.

This outstanding opportunity will appeal to someone who works effectively under pressure, has drive and a sense of purpose and who can achieve results under the minimum of supervision.

Training Officer (INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY)

Salary £11,817-£12,663 Ref CE372(5)

This post is part of the Central Training Section which provides a training resource within the Council and its 7,500 employees.

Applicants should be familiar with office-based information technology, ideally in the context of local government. Developing and arranging training activities which promote an awareness of new technology and which help users to identify appropriate applications will be an important part of the job.

The ability to apply training solutions to the problems individuals face when confronted by information technology in their day-to-day work will be necessary. In addition, applicants should have the ability to produce in-house training manuals as new technology systems are introduced.

Applicants should have had relevant training experience within a large diverse organisation. They will also need to demonstrate a full range of training skills, especially an ability to relate training to wide organisational issues. An appropriate training/personnel or information technology related qualification will be an advantage although relevant experience will also be looked for.

Applicants should also be able to demonstrate a sensitive approach to the introduction of new technology since many staff still have genuine concerns about the impact of new technology on their jobs and careers.

For an informal discussion on either of these posts contact Richard Cross, Deputy Chief Personnel Officer, on 01-852 9121 ext. 303. Alternatively if you wish to speak to a member of staff in the training section about the Information Technology post ask for ext. 248.

The Council operates a flexible working hours scheme. Applications from job sharers welcomed.

Application form, returnable by 25th April 1985 and detailed job description from Chief Personnel Officer, Riverside Offices, 88 Moleworth Street, London SE13 7EU or telephone 01-318 9297, (24 hour answerphone service) quoting appropriate reference and the job title.

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DIRECTOR OF FUND RAISING

This is one of our top managerial positions, reporting directly to the Director General.

Save the Children is a leading international children's organisation helping more than 5 million children in 50 countries, including the UK.

The diversity and scope of the fund raising activities, the mixture of volunteers and paid staff, calls for managerial leadership, marketing skills, imagination and sensitivity.

Job satisfaction will be considerable. You'll be able to make an impact on problems that affect children and their families in the 1980's and 1990's.

An excellent opportunity for a top flight manager with experience in marketing and public relations, which offers worthwhile remuneration.

Applicants are invited to write for further details to David Green, Director of Personnel, Save the Children, Mary Datchelor House, 17 Grove Lane, Camberwell, London SE5 8RD.

Closing date for applications is 22nd April 1985.

Save the Children

THE ROYAL LEICESTERSHIRE

RUTLAND AND WYCLIFFE

SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

NEW WYCLIFFE HOME FOR THE BLIND

DEPUTY OFFICER-IN-CHARGE

This modern built Category A Home for 52 elderly blind and visually handicapped residents is situated in a suburb of Leicester to the North of the City Centre. The community is a mixture of post war private housing and more modern private and council dwellings.

The Society is seeking a Deputy Officer-in-Charge who should hold a nursing or social work qualification. Candidates should be experienced in the care of elderly people, have a sense of commitment and be willing to act as a member of a team if you feel that you can encourage residents to maintain their independence, dignity and freedom of choice we shall be pleased to hear from you.

The Deputy Officer-in-Charge will not be a resident but there is a three-bedroomed semi-detached house close to the Home which will be available for use if required.

The conditions of the National Joint Council for Local Authorities apply and a salary within Grades 5/6 of the salary scales for residential staff.

Grades 5/6 - £10,197 will be paid. The post is superannuable. Sleeping-in duties will be required from time to time for which an allowance of £10.00 per night will be payable.

Further information and application forms may be obtained from the General Secretary, Royal Leicestershire, Rutland and Wycliffe Society for the Blind, Margaret Road, Leicester LE5 9PQ.

Closing date for applications 28th April 1985.

For an informal discussion on either of these posts contact Richard Cross, Deputy Chief Personnel Officer, on 01-852 9121 ext. 303. Alternatively if you wish to speak to a member of staff in the training section about the Information Technology post ask for ext. 248.

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DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF HOUSING (WORKS)

£16,986 - £18,318

The Council is committed to a programme of improving housing services and this post will play a key role in contributing to the achievement of this objective.

The postholder will be responsible to the Director of Housing for the co-ordination, control and management of the Works Division the activities of which include direct and contract labour and engineering services. As a member of the Directorate, the postholder will also participate in the overall management of the housing service within the City of Edinburgh.

The successful candidate should be qualified in at least one of the following disciplines - Building, Architecture, Engineering and Surveying and have a minimum of 10 years practical experience. Substantial experience involving the management of multi-discipline professional staff and a manual/craft workforce is essential.

Application forms and further details are available from the Director of Personnel and Management Services, City Chambers, 249 High Street, Edinburgh EH1 1PL. Telephone 031-225 2424, Ext. 6419 or 6426. Closing date 19th April 1985.

Edinburgh District Council is an equal opportunities employer. Applications are invited from women and men, from all sections of the community, irrespective of ethnic origin, disability or sexual orientation, who have the necessary attributes for the post.

Improving Services - Creating Jobs

For an informal discussion on either of these posts contact Richard Cross, Deputy Chief Personnel Officer, on 01-852 9121 ext. 303. Alternatively if you wish to speak to a member of staff in the training section about the Information Technology post ask for ext. 248.

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WOLVERHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

PRINCIPAL OFFICER AND POLICY CO-ORDINATOR'S DEPARTMENT

POLICY UNIT

(a) RACE RELATIONS AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES ADVISER
PO 416 up to £15,387(b) EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES ADVISER (WOMEN)
PO 416 up to £12,243(c) ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
Scale 6 up to £9,114

Wolverhampton Borough Council is looking for talented and energetic officers for the posts to assist in the development and implementation of its equal opportunities policies. Emphasis will be placed on commitment and the ability to achieve early results.

Wolverhampton is a multi-racial borough and gives highest priority to the provision of high-quality services to all residents and to providing a specific response to the special needs of the ethnic minorities.

All posts demand an ability to work with people at all levels of the organisation and to communicate effectively orally and in writing.

Post (a) RACE RELATIONS AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES ADVISER

will be the lead officer for the Council's Race Relations and Equal Opportunities Committee and will take responsibility for working closely with the Authority's most senior management to review existing services and departmental procedures.

The Officer also shall advise on overall policy in relation to the use of posts and other duties will include raising, dissemination of information, preparation of reports, attendance at committees, public speaking engagements, etc.

Applicants should be suitably qualified with a proven track record of working with ethnic minority organisations and local government experience will be an advantage.

Post (b) EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES ADVISER (WOMEN)

The Officer appointed to this post will be required to prepare and present policies to promote equal opportunities for women and to take appropriate action to ensure the abolition of practices which discriminate against women, with a particular emphasis on the Authority's services. The successful applicant will be expected to ensure that the services meet the needs of women in a women's view to be put forward in relation to the Council's activities.

Applicants should be appropriately qualified and will be expected to demonstrate a high degree of commitment.

Post (c) ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Will provide administrative support to posts (a) and (b).

Applicants should be appropriately qualified with a commitment to equal opportunities.

These three posts will be linked to a new team which has been established in the Personnel Division and is responsible for equal opportunity aspects of the Authority's employment policy.

Application forms and further particulars from Controller of Personnel and Management Services, Civic Centre, St Peter's Square, Wolverhampton WV1 1SH. Telephone (0902) 27811, extension 2106.

Closing date April 25, 1985.
Wolverhampton Council is committed to the implementation of an effective Equal Opportunity Policy and welcomes applications from all sections of the community irrespective of an individual's sex, ethnic origin or colour, and from people with disabilities who have the necessary attributes to do the job.WOLVERHAMPTON
the pace setter

SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Assistant Head of Home

£10,362-£11,355 p.a. (incl.)

To manage a Satellite home of the Observation and Assessment Unit, which accommodates six young people on a temporary basis, liaising with Field Social Workers in working with the families of resident young people and promoting high standards of child care. Duties include supervising and supporting staff in planning a programme of care and assessment, deputising for the Head of the Centre and ensuring implementation of Council policies.

You will be on-call and sleep-in as required. You must have a minimum of five years experience in child care, three of which should be in residential care. An appropriate qualification, i.e. C.Q.S.W., C.S.S., C.R.C.C.Y.P. is essential. This post is non-resident.

Camden is totally committed to its Equal Opportunities policies in service provision and employment. Members of ethnic minorities are under-represented in this work area in relation to Camden's population profile and applications from members of these groups will be particularly welcome to redress this imbalance.

Informal inquiries to Keith Fowler, Head of Observation and Assessment Centre on 01-485 2483.

Applicants to previous adverts need not re-apply.

Application form from and to be returned to: Director of Social Services, Wiling House, 356/364 Gray's Inn Road, WC1X 8BH, or telephone 01-837 5621 (Answerphone) quoting Reference No. 10/160/G. Closing date: 17th April, 1985.

Camden Services
equal opportunity employer
good to be!

Applicants are expected on the basis of their ability for the post, with equal opportunities for women, black/ethnic minorities, Indians and people with disabilities, and regardless of marital status, age, unemployment and criminal conviction. All posts are open for job-sharing.

SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT

ASSISTANT TRAINING OFFICER (Fieldwork)

Langgarth, Stirling

A.P.V. £10,107-£11,040

35 hours per week to be worked in accordance with the exigencies of the service.

If required, assistance will be given in an endeavour to find suitable housing/accommodation. Travelling allowance facilities available.

Within fixed limits assistance towards expenditure incurred in connection with Removal Expenses and Legal Fees/Disturbance Expenses will be given where appropriate.

A vacancy exists for professionally qualified workers with some training and/or supervisory experience to initiate new approaches to the development and implementation of a systematic Departmental Training Programme. Applicants should possess C.Q.S.W. and have at least 3 years post qualification experience. Further information may be had by telephoning Ms. Anderson, Principal Officer, Stirling 73111 Ext. 209.

Application forms and job descriptions are available from the Director of Social Work, Langgarth, Stirling (Stirling 73111, Ext. 414) and should be returned by 12th April, 1985.

Central Regional Council
An Equal Opportunities Employer

METROPOLITAN HOUSING TRUST LIMITED

ASSISTANT HOUSING MANAGER

SALARY £7803 — £10362 P.A. INC

The Trust is based in London and Nottingham and has over 4000 properties in Management. A vacancy has arisen for an Assistant Housing Manager in the North London Regional Team based in Wood Green. The post holder will be managing a mixture of purpose built and rehabilitated fair rent properties and some Special Needs housing.

The successful candidate is likely to have some relevant experience in public sector housing. Applicants must possess a current driving licence. For further details and an application form, please contact:

Doug Clark, Metropolitan Housing Trust,
Cambridge House, 109 Mayes Road,
Wood Green, N22 6UR
Tel: 01-881 1747
Closing date: Friday 12th April 1985

Aquarius

COUNSELLORS IN SHROPSHIRE AND NORTHAMPTON

Aquarius provides services to help problem drinkers. In Tetford, on behalf of the Shropshire Alcohol & Drugs Service, we are seeking to appoint a Senior Counsellor to open a new service providing counselling, training and alcohol education. In Northampton, we run a hostel which also provides a counselling service for homeless clients. There is a vacancy for a counsellor. Applicants should preferably have a qualification in social work, counselling, psychology, nursing or other relevant background. Experience in the alcohol or drug problems field will be an asset. Salary Counsellor Level 1 £5555 — £7147 (unqualified) Counsellor Level 2 £7524 — £9125 Senior Counsellor £9125 — £11025 Application form from: Paul Allen, Aquarius, 41 Marshall Street, Birmingham B3 2DD. Please enclose a large cv. Closing date for receipt of applications: 19th April 1985.

NOVO Urban Unit is looking for a DEVELOPMENT OFFICER (RACE EQUALITY)

Urban Unit is a small team which supports voluntary and community groups in England's cities. Its Development Officers give advice, set up work-shops and conferences, produce a newsletter and lobby government. A lot of the work is outside London.

You will spend about half your time explaining the Unit's work of helping black and minority groups get more of money, information and services. So it is essential that you have lived or worked in an ethnic minority community — though not necessarily as a paid worker in a voluntary organisation.

You will also take the lead on one or two of the Unit's other areas of work. These include the Urban Programme, links with business and commerce; links with local authorities; making professional skills accessible to local communities. Experience with one of these things will help.

We're looking for someone who is confident and diplomatic; and who can cope with deadlines. The job will involve speaking in public and writing reports and articles. You'll be working with a team of people. The job is paid on a scale between £3 750 and £12 000 per annum, including London weighting. Write to the Personnel Office, National Council for Voluntary Organisations, 28 Bedford Square, London WC1B 3PH, for further details and application form. Closing date for completed applications: 19 April 1985.

NOVO is an Equal Opportunities Employer

EASTBOURNE BOROUGH COUNCIL

TECHNICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

DOWNLAND RANGER

Scale 4: £5,555 to £7,229

Eastbourne has 4000 acres of downland, a mix of Outstanding Natural Beauty with a Heritage Coast including the famous Battle Beach. A Ranger is required to assist in the development and protection of this unique environment.

Applications are invited from persons with sound knowledge of natural history and conservation and with practical experience together with good initiative and proven organisational ability. The duties of the post holder will be to manage and co-ordinate work of rangers and weekend wardens which is reflected in the salary offered. The Ranger will be responsible for the management of the downland which will be provided on or adjacent to the Downes.

Full details and application forms may be obtained from The Director of Technical Services, 40-48 Grove Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex TN39 2JF. Completed applications must be returned to us as to be considered and by 12 noon on Friday, 18th April, 1985.

For informal discussions about this post, please telephone Richard Dawson on (0232) 21553.

WORK IN LEISURE

We are looking for a person with a minimum of 2 years experience in a similar position to join our team in the development and protection of this unique environment.

Full details and application forms may be obtained from The Director of Technical Services, 40-48 Grove Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex TN39 2JF. Completed applications must be returned to us as to be considered and by 12 noon on Friday, 18th April, 1985.

For informal discussions about this post, please telephone Richard Dawson on (0232) 21553.

LONDON BOROUGH OF HARINGEY

TEMPORARY PART-TIME SOCIAL WORKER

(21 hours) — approximately 9 months but not exceeding 51 weeks.

£5,863-£6,524 with one year's post qualification experience.

£5,513 for newly qualified staff.

We require a qualified and experienced Social Worker to cover a maternity leave absence. The post will be a temporary one of a part-time nature and will be expected to work, essentially, evenings and weekends. The post holder will share in the responsibility of the team and so must be able to work under pressure.

The post holder will be given the multi-racial nature of the area and the post holder will be expected to work with a diverse range of people, including black, Asian, Greek and Irish people.

For further information please contact either Roger Bailey, Senior Social Worker, Haringey Social Work Department, 100 Park Road, London N11 1JL.

Application forms and job descriptions are available from the Director of Social Services, 40-48 Grove Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex TN39 2JF. Completed applications must be returned to us as to be considered and by 12 noon on Friday, 18th April, 1985.

Closing date: April 16, 1985.

HARINGEY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER.

NORTH EAST COUNCIL ON ALCOHOLISM

DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

Alcohol Services Northumberland

A dynamic and multi-qualified worker is required to promote and support the further development of community based alcohol services including a multi-service approach in Northumberland.

The successful applicant will be responsible for the development and co-ordination of the service and will be expected to work under pressure.

Salary £5,555 to £10,242 (SC 11).

Applications in writing (including cv and references to North East Council on Alcoholism, 100 Park Road, London N11 1JL) should be sent to the Personnel Officer, 100 Park Road, London N11 1JL. Closing date: April 19, 1985.

WELFARE RIGHTS WORKER needed by Greenwich Community Centre. Write for details to: Welfare Rights Worker, Greenwich Community Centre, 100 Park Road, London N11 1JL. Tel: 01-837 5621.

NATUROPATH — Required Naturopath experienced in the treatment of chronic conditions to work in acupuncture practice. Write for details to: Naturopath, 100 Park Road, London N11 1JL. Closing date: April 19, 1985.

YOUTH SERVICES

NORTHFIELD YMCA

An immediate vacancy arises for a

RESIDENT WORKER-IN-CHARGE

at this busy unit of Birmingham. There is a mixed residence for 50 young people. The unit has a separate sports hall and club rooms, lounge, kitchen and dining room. The professional staff includes a qualified youth and community worker.

Applications are invited by April 22 from experienced workers with a minimum of 3 years' experience in a similar post and the ability to undertake a supervisory role. The successful applicant will be responsible for the management of the unit and will be expected to work under pressure.

Salary £5,555 to £10,242 (SC 11). A three-bedroom flat with secure entrance is available. Further details and application forms from The General Secretary, City of Birmingham Y.M.C.A. (Inc.), 100 Park Road, London N11 1JL.

Applications are invited for the post of

FULL TIME QUALIFIED YOUTH LEADER

for Newton-le-Willows Boys Club. The post holder will be responsible for the management of the unit and will be expected to work under pressure. Salary £5,555 to £10,242 (SC 11). Further details and application forms from The General Secretary, City of Birmingham Y.M.C.A. (Inc.), 100 Park Road, London N11 1JL.

TRAIN TO BE A SOCIAL WORKER

or to become an officer in a local authority or voluntary organisation. The successful applicant will be responsible for the management of the unit and will be expected to work under pressure. Salary £5,555 to £10,242 (SC 11). Further details and application forms from The General Secretary, City of Birmingham Y.M.C.A. (Inc.), 100 Park Road, London N11 1JL.

DIRECTORATE OF HOUSING SERVICES

Assistant Area Housing Manager

£11,061 to £11,682

Responsible for co-ordinating the management of a number of districts. The supervisor, distribution (in conjunction with the Area Housing Manager), and control of Estate Officers allocated to the post holder and for maintaining the highest standard of service to both tenants and members of the public.

Application forms from Director of Housing Services, London Borough of Greenwich, Peggys Middleton House, 50 Woolwich New Road, Woolwich, London SE18 8HQ. Tel. 01-854 8888, ext. 3771.

DIRECTORATE OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Senior Care Officer (Pre-school)

£10,134 to £10,764

An interesting opportunity to join an expanding Pre-school Section. We are looking for a suitably qualified and experienced person to join the team in improving services and facilities for families with young children.

The Senior Care Officer will be involved in all aspects of the Section's work but will have particular responsibility for childminding, including the well-established sponsorship scheme.

There is also a commitment to enhance the training and services to all childminders through the team of Day Care Visitors.

We are undertaking to work towards an integrated service for the Under Fives which involves close liaison with local Community and Professional Agencies.

For further information telephone Maureen Reed, Principal Care Officer (Pre-school) on (01) 654 8888, ext. 3036. Application forms from Director of Social Services, London Borough of Greenwich, 50 Woolwich New Road, London SE18 8HQ. Tel. (01) 854 8888, ext. 3073. Closing date April 12, 1985.

The Council positively welcomes applications from women, ethnic minorities, and disabled people.

GREENWICH People and Services First

CAMDEN FAMILY SERVICE UNIT

BENGALI/SYLHETI SPEAKING WOMAN SOCIAL WORKER

Salary £8,313-£11,964 incl London Weighting

Camden FSU is a social work team composed of 3 projects: a family work team, an Asian/Chinese counselling project and a groupwork project.

The family work team aims to offer an integrated service to Camden families, which may include welfare rights work, the use of family therapy methods, groupwork and campaigning work. The team has recently become involved in work with homeless families living in hotel accommodation in the W2 area, and intends to extend this service to include work with the high percentage of Bengali families.

We therefore wish to appoint a Bengali/Sylheti speaking woman social worker as a member of the family work team. Applicants should have an interest in both family work and campaigning work coupled with a capacity to develop a network of community contacts in the Borough. While a formal qualification is not essential, previous experience and an enthusiasm for developing family work skills will be important considerations. We aim to place emphasis on a shared team approach and to incorporate a degree of in-service training.

Application forms and further details from: The Director, Family Service Units, 207 Old Marylebone Road, London NW1 5DP. 01-402 5175 or 24-hour answer phone 01-723 5207. Please quote C12. Closing date 19 April.

FSU IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors

WISHES TO APPOINT A WELSH-SPEAKING LAW GRADUATE

to assist the Arbitrations Officer in providing administrative support to the President in the appointment of arbitrators, predominantly under the Agricultural Holdings legislation but also in other cases.

Applicants should not be less than 25 years of age and must be fluent in the Welsh language.

SALARY c£8,600 p.a.

Applications with cv (and daytime telephone number) to The Personnel Officer, R.I.C.S. 12 Great George Street, Parliament Square, London SW1P 3AD Telephone: 01-222 7000 Ext. 212

LEEDS CITY COUNCIL Department of Social Service

MANAGER REF: THG/356

The Vale Day Centre, Pottery Vale, Leeds 10

S6/S.O.1. £5632 — £10107

The Vale is a successful Psychiatric Day Centre run along therapeutic community lines. It offers both rehabilitation and long term support.

The trained and experienced staff work closely with other specialists to give members insight and to encourage them to take responsibility for their own lives. The Centre's programme includes individual and group counselling as well as art, drama, music and family therapy.

Applicants should have experience of working in a therapeutic community and be skilled in more than one appropriate therapy. The successful candidate will need the ability to manage a dynamic centre and to lead an experienced staff team. Informal enquiries to Tony Martin, Tel. Leeds 483422.

Application forms by writing, enclosing S.A.E. to Director of Social Services, Leeds City Council, 110 Merrion Centre, Leeds LS2 8QA.

Leeds is an equal opportunity employer.

Closing date: 20 days after the appearance of this advert.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES CO-ORDINATING BODY ON TRADING STANDARDS

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

The Local Authorities Co-ordinating Body on Trading Standards are recruiting an Administrative Officer to work in a small central local government organisation based in Central Croydon.

The successful applicant will deal with issues such as fair trading, consumer protection and weights and measures. Some previous experience in data processing work or computing is essential.

Preference will be given to a graduate who has already been employed with a local or central government agency or authority.

Salary scale would be a range within £7,212 to £9,189 according to experience. Luncheon Vouchers provided.

Application forms and details from the Chief Executive, P.O. Box 6, Farn Road, Croydon CR9 1LG

Community, social and women's group workers

They're asking for you from the Caribbean to the South China Sea.

The skills and experience of social workers are greatly needed in the third world. Voluntary Service Overseas is looking for the right, committed, people to work with children in residential homes and with the mentally and physically handicapped in hospitals. We also have posts in government welfare departments, as well as with women's groups and non-governmental organisations requiring a community work approach.

VSO work-being carried out by some 1,000 volunteers at this moment — has a lasting effect in combatting world poverty and hunger.

And each VSO worker returns richly rewarded by the two-year experience.

Applicants should be aged between 20 and 65, without dependants and willing to accept no more than the 'local' rate of pay.

If you have the right qualities and expertise and you're free to go, please believe that you're needed urgently! If you're unable to go, but would like to send our work, there are still two things you can do: send a donation, become a VSO member.

(For more information, please complete and return the coupon.)

VSO VOLUNTARY SERVICE OVERSEAS

I am interested in volunteering my qualifications or experience in

Please send details about VSO

I enclose a donation of £5.00 (C) £10.00 (S)

Name

Address

Post to Enquiries Unit, Voluntary Service Overseas, 9 Doghouse Square, London E1 8JL (Post to £2.50 p.p. approx.)

County No. 313757 02/73

DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION

Salary Scale £18,786-£20,190 (subject to job evaluation)

Applications are invited for the above post (arising from the retirement of the present postholder) from Solicitors holding a current practising certificate and with at least five years' Local Government service at a senior level.

The post holder is the District Council's principal officer responsible for the provision of legal advice, servicing of committees, acting as Clerk of the Peace, Clerk to the District Council and Licensing Board, organising the administration of the District Council elections and fulfilling specific statutory and legal obligations on behalf of the District Council. In addition he is responsible for the day-to-day operation of the Administration and Legal Departments whose present combined establishment consists of two chief officers, four professional staff, six administrative staff, 14 clerical staff, and three trainees. The Director will be responsible for the effective management of the departments and its resources.

The District Council is about to consider a major reconstruction of its committee structure and in common with all other authorities is being forced to address itself to new and entirely novel challenges which face Local Government.

Application forms and job descriptions may be had by writing to the Personnel Officer at the undermentioned address. Closing date for completed applications is Wednesday, April 10, 1985.

STRATHKELVIN DISTRICT COUNCIL P.O. Box 4, Council Chambers, Kirkintilloch, Glasgow, G66 1PW

HYDE & SOUTH BANK HOUSING ASSOCIATION LTD

Hyde is a large expanding Association in SE London developing and managing an increasing number of supported Housing Schemes in Greenwich, particularly aiming to accommodate a range of housing options for the young single homeless.

PROJECT WORKER (NON RESIDENTIAL)

is needed to be responsible for the refurbishment and management of two new schemes, one large cluster-based scheme and one bed-sitter scheme. This will include allocation, repairs, repairs and support and advice to residents. The worker will join our Greenwich Area Team at our Woolwich office. We are looking for someone with residential qualifications and/or experience of Housing Management or residential work with young people.

SALARY c£8,600 p.a.

Applications with cv (and daytime telephone number) to The Personnel Officer, R.I.C.S. 12 Great George Street, Parliament Square, London SW1P 3AD Telephone: 01-222 7000 Ext. 212

PROJECT WORKER (RESIDENTIAL)

is needed to fill an existing post at St Mark's Close in North Greenwich. This successful scheme consists of an 18-bed cluster for young homeless and a 10-bed sheltered scheme for the elderly. The residential worker will work with a non-residential Project Worker whose duties will include sleeping in between them they will manage the hostel and fulfil the role of warden for the sheltered scheme. We are looking for someone with residential qualifications and/or experience of Housing Management or residential work with young people.

Salary scale for both posts £7,212-£10,388 per annum with a bar at £18,180 per annum, 32 days holiday, contributory pension scheme. For job description and application form please contact Mr. R. W. Tindman, M.H. Housing Manager, Hyde & South Bank Housing Association Ltd, 384 Lee High Road, Lee Green, London SE12 8RW. Tel. 01-818 7785. For an informal discussion telephone Tom Tishington on 01-318 7788.

Closing date for both posts is 19th April, 1985. Hyde is an equal opportunities employer.

AGE CONCERN

FIELD OFFICER

AGE CONCERN ENGLAND requires a Field Officer to work in the seven counties of SW England. He/she will work closely with Age Concern groups, advising and supporting professional and voluntary workers on all matters. The post is based in the South West and works from home.

Salary in range £8,900 to £10,815. Car provided. Contributory pension scheme, five weeks' annual leave.

Further details from Personnel Department, Age Concern England, 59 Piccadilly Road, Mickleham, Surrey CR4 3LL. Tel. 01-446 5431.

Closing date April 19, 1985

WOMEN'S WORKER

Diane Collet House, multi-purpose community centre in Stepney Green needs a second Women's Worker to help identify the needs of and give support to, local women. Knowledge of Bengali an asset but not essential.

Salary APS £8,778

For job description contact Joanna Burt or Dianne Kelly, Diane Collet House, Ben Jonson Road, E1 9NR 9077

Closing date for applications is 19.4.85

This post is funded until March 1986 by the DfSS. Diane Collet House is an equal opportunities employer.

Section 7 (2) of the Sex Discrimination Act applies to above post

HAMPSHIRE

Countryside Project Officer

The Sir George Staunton Estate, Havant, Hampshire.

S01 £9,477-£10,107

3 year appointment

A Countryside Project Officer is needed to prepare a strategy for the management of 1100 acres of attractive countryside which borders a heavily built up area. The land is owned by various public authorities and concerted action is required to ensure that it is conserved and made available for informal countryside recreation.

The successful candidate will be able to plan and sell the product effectively, translate a concept into deed, understand problems, find solutions and have the ability to take the owners and the community along with him or her.

An Equal Opportunities Employer

Archaeological Trust, The Old Cemetery Lodge, 1 Writtle Road, Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 3BL.

County of Cleveland

PLANNING DEPARTMENT
Group Planning Officer
(Environment) £14,358-£15,387

Applications are invited from enthusiastic and appropriately qualified persons (preferably Landscape Architects) for the post of Group Planning Officer to lead the Department's Landscape and Conservation teams.

The successful applicant will be involved in a wide variety of interesting work including the preparation and implementation of contract and improvement schemes for major landscape and environmental improvement schemes. The Group also assists in the formulation and implementation of advice and policies and provides appropriate technical input into forward planning matters and the County Council's Council and outside agencies takes place.

The successful applicant will have several years' relevant experience, proven managerial ability, and be able to communicate effectively and diplomatically. A knowledge of computers will not be essential but will be an advantage.

Planning Officer
(Strategic Policy) £13,144-£11,025

A Chartered Town Planner with skills and recent experience in the preparation of structure plans is required in the Department's strategic policy group.

The current work emphasis is directed towards the development and implementation of local economic initiatives and this work will continue. However, the approved structure plans are in need of substantial review. The successful applicant will be required to make a major contribution to this work.

In addition to the structure plan and economic initiatives, the group, which is one of three in the Strategic Policy Division, monitors EEC policy, develops proposals for the EEC and is involved in the preparation of various local and regional policy studies.

A knowledge of computers whilst not essential would be an advantage. Application forms and further details may be obtained from J. D. S. Gille, BA, MPTP, County Planning Officer, Gurney House, Gurney Street, Middlesbrough, Cleveland TS1 1QT, Tel: Middlesbrough (0642) 241155 ext 2411. The closing date for applications is 12th April, 1985.

SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT
Welfare Rights Officer
(DS872)

Welfare Rights Officer
(Tribunal Worker) £8,532-£9,114

The Welfare Rights Service comprises a team of four development workers, two tribunal workers, a team leader and clerical support. A vacancy has arisen for a Tribunal Worker. The post holder will primarily be a caseworker, advising appellants and where necessary representing them at Social Security and Medical Appeal Tribunals and Hearings of the Social Security Commissioners. Also the post holder will be involved in promoting tribunal advice and representation work with other agencies throughout the County, which will involve some training work.

Applications are invited from people who have experience in Social Security and/or Medical Appeal Tribunal representation. Candidates must be car owners/drivers as an essential car user allowance is payable.

This post would be suitable for job sharing so long as the post holders would adopt flexible working hours.

For formal discussion contact Chris Davies, Senior Welfare Rights Officer, Tel: Middlesbrough (0642) 241155 ext 2443. Job descriptions and application forms are obtainable from the County Director of Social Services, PO Box 91, Meriton House, Borough Road, Middlesbrough, Cleveland (Tel 246885, 24-hour answering service), to whom completed forms should be returned by 12th April, 1985.

Please quote Post Reference Number when applying. We are an Equal Opportunities Employer.

CAMPAIGN ASSISTANT

THE SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND in conjunction with the DHSS Working Group on Asian Health has launched the Asian Mother & Baby Campaign with the aim of improving the health of pregnant mothers and their children within the Asian community by improving communication links and the accessibility of the health services. We are now seeking a replacement for one of two Campaign Assistants who will be based at London HQ but will need to travel within the UK. The appointment is currently funded until the end of March, 1986.

Applicants will ideally be teachers, social workers or community workers, preferably with experience of teaching English as a Second Language (ESL). The promotion of mother and child health educational programmes through ESL classes and the Home Tutoring Service and the development of support from community and women's groups will entail working closely with educational and community organisations. A driving licence and the ability to speak one of the Asian languages will be essential.

Salary will be £8,925 per annum plus use of car. For job description and application form, please contact Leonie Linton, Personnel Officer, SCF, 17 Grove Lane, Camberwell, London SE5 8RD, Tel 01-703 5400. Closing date for applications is 19th April, 1985.

Asian Mother and Baby Campaign

HEAD OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES UNIT

Salary: PO(1) £13,326 — £14,358 Ref no: CCE/6775/B

This newly created post will report to the Chief Executive and be responsible for the overall co-ordination, progress and monitoring of the Authority's Equal Opportunities Policy and will direct the activities of the Equal Opportunities Unit.

Candidates for this post should preferably hold an appropriate qualification, the prime requirement is for substantial experience in the field of Equal Opportunities. Experience at a senior level is essential with the ability to produce accurate oral and written reports.

Further details and application form, returnable by 18th April from Director of Personnel (Tel: Bristol 298565 — Answerphone on this number after office hours), P.O. Box 270, Avon House, The Haymarket, Bristol BS9 7NE. Please quote reference number.

Personnel Services Department

PADDINGTON CAB

ADVICE WORKER

An experienced advice worker, preferably Spanish speaking, is required to join this busy inner London bureau working under constant pressure. Staff work collectively with pay parity.

Post graded at Scale 6.

Part-time applicants equivalent to a full-time worker considered. A second post may become vacant in the near future; candidates should indicate if they are willing to be considered for both posts.

Closing date: 19th April 1985.

For an application form and job description, send large s.a.e. to Paddington C.A.B., 441 Harrow Road, London W10.

As an Equal Opportunities Employer, GLC/ABS wishes to encourage positively all applications regardless of disability, race, sex or creed.

CAMPAIGN FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

GENERAL SECRETARY

Britain's largest growing campaigning organisation requires a General Secretary responsible for policy co-ordination and co-ordination with other organisations and management skills, experience in non-profit organisations, and commitment to the campaign.

For an application form and detailed job description, ring Judith Harris, 01-263 0677.

Closing date for completed applications: Friday, 18 April. Closing date for policy of pay parity with currently £7,500 p.a. including London weighting, which will be considered on merit.

We welcome your application, which will be considered on merit irrespective of race, marital status or sex.

PARENTS FOR CHILDREN

NEW DIRECTOR

(No advertisement)

Salary within PO2 scale, starting not less than £13,688 plus London weighting but subject to negotiation.

Did our first advertisement sound daunting? It need not be! There is an opportunity for someone wanting a challenge to enjoy the independence of leading a small voluntary adoption agency in new directions. Parents for Children finds families for older and handicapped children, prepares children, and offers long-term support. We work closely with local authorities referring the children, and are involved in teaching and speaking about the work.

The agency is embarking on an exciting new phase: expanding the staff; moving to bigger premises; developing new post-adoption services. The staff wants someone to lead, support, manage, co-ordinate them. Phillida Sawbridge, our current Director, has done it in one way. You might do it another. Why not talk to her or the staff group. Informally about it?

Tel: 01-485 7326/48. Closing date for applications: April 18th 1985.

Additional SOCIAL WORKER

To join a team of three others, also required.

We seek experience in, and commitment to, family placement of older and handicapped children and an ability to help the agency keep developing new ideas. The team needs to draw on a wide range of skills such as counselling, group work, work with children, use of technology (such as video), teaching, and liaison with other agencies and disciplines, although no one member combines them all.

Team work is essential for the risk-taking involved.

CAR DRIVER needed, flexible hours worked. Salary scale PO1 £11,652-£13,491 inclusive. Inquirers will be sent further information and invited to an informal open day.

Contact Phillida Sawbridge, Director, or any other staff member, on 01-485 7326/48, or 222 Camden High Street, London NW1. Closing date for applications: 18 April 1985.

From the Stonebridge Bus Garage . . . to the Stonebridge Community Complex

The Stonebridge Bus Garage Project has been described as the largest and most exciting black community project in the country. It involves the conversion of a former London Transport Bus Garage to form a Community Complex providing workshops and training, social and recreational facilities. The project is being promoted by the Hereward People's Community Council (HPC) with support from the London Borough of Brent, DOE, MDC, EDC and other agencies. The HPC are an Afro-Caribbean group formed in 1961. One of their major aims is to provide employment and facilities for residents of the nearby Stonebridge estate, 70% of whom are black.

The Project has now reached a critical stage in its development. Phase 1 of the conversion programme — comprising an ITSO, Under 5's Centre and outdoor sports changing rooms has been completed and is open. Work on Phase 2 of the programme is about to start. Meanwhile the Project's Board of Directors wish to fill the following posts so they can be provided with the necessary professional advice and assistance in running this important project.

Project Manager
(up to £12,000 pa)

To have overall responsibility for managing and developing the project and its staff in line with policies determined by the Board of Directors.

Assistant Manager (Development)
(up to £11,500 pa)

To be responsible for the development of businesses, sports, arts and entertainment facilities at the Complex.

Assistant Manager (Support Services)
(up to £11,500 pa)

To be responsible for the day-to-day running of the Project and the provision of all support services.

Financial Co-ordinator
(up to £10,500 pa)

To be responsible for the Project's financial accounts and for the development and operation of effective financial systems.

Training Co-ordinator
(up to £10,500 pa)

To be responsible for ensuring local people are trained to take on jobs at the Complex.

Further information and application forms can be obtained by writing to Nana Bonasu, Personnel Administrator, Stonebridge Bus Garage Project, Hereward Road, NW10, or Tel 01-655 2223. Applicants may apply for more than one of the posts. Details of contract will be discussed at interview.

CLOSING DATE: 19th April, 1985.

HPC is an EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER.

"Help us keep moving forward"

FIFE REGIONAL COUNCIL

SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT

RIMBLETON HOUSE YOUNG PERSONS' CENTRE

GLENROTHES

ASSISTANT GROUP LEADER

£8,262-£9,795 (bar at £9,114)

RESIDENTIAL CARE WORKER

£7,524-£8,820 (bar at £8,262)

Rimbleton House is a multi-function centre offering a comprehensive service to children in need in Fife Region. Through its primary and specialist roles of reception, inter-disciplinary assessment, specialised care and treatment and special education, it works closely with all other services for children including fostering and adoption, community care, residential homes, school, Children's Hearings and Courts. Its role has been an evolving one, adapting and developing services to meet the changing needs of children and their families.

The centre is sub-divided into sections, each with its own staff team and specialist primary task. There is a strong emphasis on meeting children's individual needs which demands a high level of individual professional responsibility and the ability to work as a member of a staff team. There is a good network of support within the centre and regular supervision is given. There are also staff development programmes in operation.

These posts require suitably qualified people with, preferably, some experience in social work in relation to children. The assistant group leader post requires a person capable of providing support and professional supervision to qualified staff.

N.J.C. Conditions of Service for A.P.T. & C. (Residential Staff) will apply.

Shifting-in duties on a rota basis will be required for which a payment of £10.05 per night will be made.

Conveyancing directly or indirectly will disqualify.

Application forms and further details are available from the Director of Manpower Services, Fife House, North Street, Glenrothes, to whom they should be returned not later than FRIDAY, 12th April, 1985. Ref no: number 01/58/477. Telephone: Glenrothes 754411, Exts. 3555/3556/3557.

Informal discussions and visits are welcome. To arrange these contact Mr John M. Clark, Principal, or one of the Management Team at Glenrothes (0452) 738121.

THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF VOLUNTARY LITERACY SCHEMES

is an organisation providing support to voluntary sector adult basic education projects. We now need an additional

HALF-TIME MEMBER OF STAFF

(18 hours per week, part-time)

with an understanding of adult informal learning situations to help develop some aspects of our work. Some weekend work required.

We welcome applications from ethnic minority candidates. Funding agreed to 1988.

Applications by 28th April, 1985: Details from Eric Appleby, NFVLS, Cambridge House, 131 Camberwell Road, London SE5 6HF.

LEWISHAM & NORTH SOUTHWARK HEALTH AUTHORITY

ADMINISTRATOR

COMMUNITY MENTAL HANDICAP TEAM

Salary £8,821-£10,515 inclusive.

You will be working with a multi-professional team providing a community-based service for mentally handicapped people in Lewisham.

As well as previous administrative experience, preferably in the NHS, you will have organisational skills, the ability to influence and communicate with all types of people and a commitment to promoting the interests of mentally handicapped people and to ensuring that a co-ordinated service that is well planned and easily obtainable is provided.

For further information or an informal discussion please contact: Nan Clark, Unit Administrator, on 01-482 7000 ext 3726. Application forms and job description available from: The Personnel Department, Lambeth Hospital, South Wing Nurses Home, High Street, London SE13 6LN, Tel 01-482 5521 and 5527.

Arlington House, an exciting housing project for the single homeless in Camden Town, has the following vacancies:

ADVICE WORKER
£9,050 (full-time)NIGHT ORDERLY
£7,275 (3 nights per week)COMMUNITY WORKER
£9,050 (full-time)ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
£8,000-£9,000 (full-time)

To work in the reception/advice team.

The Advice Worker and Night Orderly will deal with welfare rights queries, housing problems and provide security and counselling to the residents.

The Community Worker will enable the residents to play a more active role within the house and outside in the wider community.

The Administrative Assistant will provide administrative assistance to the household department. This job will also involve working shifts and a knowledge of cleaning and stocktaking is desirable.

Please contact Shirley Briggs on 01-482 3374, or write to Arlington House, 220 Arlington Road, London NW1.

UKHT is an equal opportunities employer.

UKHT

UKHT is an equal opportunities employer.

WE KNOW WHERE WE'RE GOING. ARE YOU COMING WITH US

The domiciliary care service in Buckinghamshire is developing more intensive support for the frail and dependent, more help for carers, evening and weekend services, very sheltered housing schemes and specialist assistance to elderly mentally infirm people.

OUR PRINCIPAL OFFICER (DOMICILIARY SERVICES)

Salary: £10,716 — £11,562

has guided and co-ordinated these developments, assisted with training and clarified methods and objectives. Now she is moving on and we are seeking a successor who will bring the same professionalism, enthusiasm and mastery of detail to this complex and exciting task.

Applicants should hold a professional qualification and have substantial experience of work in the community with elderly and handicapped people.

Enquiries to Mr. John Williams, Principal Professional Adviser, Telephone Aylesbury (0296) 5000, extension 516. Application forms and further details from the Director of Social Services, County Hall, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire HP20 1EZ. Telephone Aylesbury (0296) 5000, extension 512.

Closing Date: 12th April, 1985. An Equal Opportunity Employer

Buckinghamshire

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF SEFTON

DEPUTY CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

This is a second tier post in the Finance Department of the Council. The vacancy arises due to the retirement of the present postholder in July 1985, and the Council are seeking as a successor a qualified accountant, preferably I.P.A., of exceptional managerial ability with successful, broadly-based experience at a senior level.

In addition to undertaking control of particular aspects of departmental management policy as directed by the Chief Finance Officer, the person appointed will support and assist for the Chief Finance Officer in making a creative and positive contribution to the objectives of the Council.

The Borough comprises of the most attractive areas of the north west coast; assistance with relocation is available in appropriate cases and an essential user car allowance is payable.

Application forms and further details, returnable by 19th April are available from:

Personnel and Management Services Officer, Sefton M.B.C., Town Hall, Southport, Lord Street, Merseyside PR8 1DA. Telephone: Southport 33133, ext. 145. Canvassing will disqualify.

Senior Neighbourhood Worker

£8,724-£9,306

If you are experienced and enjoy working hard with friendly people, give me (Mike Clabey) a ring on 0442 60161 ext 2498 (or 2500).

Our offer includes a car allowance, generous relocation expenses and maybe help with housing.

Write, if you prefer, for details to: The Director of Leisure Services, Sefton Borough Council, Civic Centre, Marlowes, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP1 1TH. Closing date: 12th April, 1985.

We are an equal opportunity employer

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL

COMMUNITY COMMUNICATION AND TENANT INVOLVEMENT

Manchester City Council sees the implementation of its tenant participation strategy as a major priority. Two new posts in the Housing Department have been created to promote this strategy.

Tenant Liaison Officer

Grade Scale 6 (£8,532 to £9,114)

2 people are required to help promote greater involvement by tenants in the running of Council housing. The work will include both the encouragement of an active tenants' movement and the promotion of better public relations.

The duties include:

- work with area housing staff to improve communications with tenants and tenants' groups;
- help with training to acquire skills necessary to promote tenant understanding and co-operative involvement;
- advice to area managers on methods of consultation (S43 Housing Act 1980);
- promotion and support of individual tenants' groups.

The duties call for experience of community development and/or successful 'priority estates' work, mature personalities, energy and enthusiasm. Proven ability in this area of work is considered more important than formal qualifications.

Candidates selected for interview will be asked to submit reports arising from their work and experience.

Information Officer

Grade SO1 £9,477 — £10,107

You will be responsible for improving all aspects of the public relations of the Council Housing Service, including:

- preparation of housing leaflets, handbooks, exhibitions, displays;
- editing of housing supplements for the civic magazine;
- communications with tenants groups;
- the improvement of communications within the Department;
- promotional work undertaken with the City's Campaign and Public Information Unit.

The duties will call for someone with skills and experience in journalism and/or public relations.

Application forms are available from the Personnel and Training Officer, Housing Department, Room 2021, Level 2, Town Hall Extension, Manchester M60 2JL. Tel: 061-224 4724. Closing date: 18 April 1985.

The City Council operates a Union Membership agreement under which a new employee is required to become a member of a recognised Union.

MANCHESTER City Council

Manchester City Council is an Equal Opportunity Employer, and we positively welcome applications from women and men, regardless of their racial, ethnic or national origin, disability, age, sexuality, or responsibilities for dependents.

CHILD POVERTY ACTION GROUP

FINANCE OFFICER

To maintain financial records; forecast budget and cashflow; prepare accounts for audit; operate sales ledger, credit control, banking, petty cash; and work on developing financial strategy and computerisation of the accounts. A challenge for someone with flair and experience capable of working without supervision.

Accountancy qualifications and computer knowledge desirable. Salary £11,531. Closing date for applications 19th April, 1985.

Job description from: Claire Furlong, CPAG, 1 Macdon Street, London WC2B 5NH. (SAE appreciated).

CPAG is an equal opportunities employer.

TRAINING/ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

A well organised and efficient person needed to handle the administration of our welfare rights training programme and provide general administrative back-up in the office. Must be able to work on own initiative with minimal supervision as part of a small team. Fast accurate typing, numeracy and good telephone manner essential; familiarity with word processing useful; interest in disability / welfare rights desirable.

Salary £7,625 p.a. (part funded by the GLC)

Five weeks' holiday. Appointment initially for one year. Details and job description from: Disability Alliance ERA, 25 Denmark Street, London WC2H 8NJ. Tel 01-240 0806. Closing date: April 12th, 1985.

We are an equal opportunities employer; applications especially welcome from people with disabilities.

UNIVERSITY OF EAST ANGLIA Norwich

TUTOR IN MENTAL HEALTH SOCIAL WORK

Applications are invited for this new post of Tutor in Mental Health Social Work. The post holder will be responsible for the supervision and training of social workers in the field of mental health social work.

The post will be carried out by the Social Services Department, which is responsible for the provision of mental health services in the County of Norfolk.

The post will be full-time for two years and will be based in the County of Norfolk. The post holder will be responsible for the supervision and training of social workers in the field of mental health social work.

Salary will be on the scale £7,000-£10,000 per annum and will be subject to a maximum of £10,000 per annum.

Details and application forms are available from: The Director of Social Services, County Hall, Norwich, Norfolk NR1 1JL. Tel: 01603 61111. Closing date: 12th April, 1985.

The University of East Anglia is an equal opportunities employer.

COURSES

COURSES IN WEST INDIAN SOCIOLOGY

The Centre for Caribbean Studies is offering 3 Summer Courses designed to assist Social Workers, Teachers, Probation Officers, Magistrates and indeed any professionals whose work brings them into contact with this particular minority group, especially with regard to decision-making which affects them. As before, courses have been arranged in direct response to requests from professionals who are aware of the lack of knowledge in this area of work.

The first of these courses is part-time and begins on Friday 3rd May 1985. The other two are week-long block courses beginning on Monday 13th May and Monday 10th June 1985.

Further details, including information re bursaries offered by the Centre, in celebration of its 10th anniversary this year, are obtainable from Mrs. J. Benn, Director / Coordinator, Centre for Caribbean Studies, Caribbean House, 76-80 Bridport Place, Shoreditch Park, London N1 5DS. Tel: 01-729 6986.

HOUSING DIPLOMA at LSE

Applications are invited for a challenging new post-graduate Diploma in Housing at the London School of Economics.

Financial support for successful candidates plus a chance to work as part of a team in a local housing office in inner London and other cities. Professional qualification of the Institute of Housing on completion of the course and practical work.

Further information from the Graduate School, LSE, Houghton Street, London WC2A 2AE, Tel 01-405 7686 ext 608.

TRAINING COURSES AT THE WOMEN'S THERAPY CENTRE

WORKING WITH WOMEN WITH EATING PROBLEMS

June 15, 16, 20 & 30
A two week training course for women working in the NHS and other health agencies who work with women with eating problems such as compulsive eating, anorexia and bulimia.

WORKSHOP LEADERS' COURSE
June 2 — July 15
A seven week course on Monday evenings for women in the caring professions who have some basic experience of group work and counselling to learn how to run experiential workshops for women.

For details of courses and SAE to WTC, 6 Manor Gardens, London N7 6LA. (Section 43 SDA applied)

MANCHESTER COUNCIL FOR COMMUNITY RELATIONS

ASSISTANT COMMUNITY RELATIONS OFFICER (Social Welfare)

Employment Policy Officer

NACRO manages 150 Projects providing employment training for offenders and for the disadvantaged. This new post has been created to help our Employment Section to develop a national employment policy and extend the impact of NACRO's work in relation to employment issues, crime, and offending.

Duties will include the preparation of written material, keeping in touch with the work of other organisations concerned with employment matters, and making recommendations on general employment policy. Experience of report writing is essential.

The post will be based in Birmingham, but some travel will be involved.

Salary: £10,241 inclusive (increment scale).
Closing date Monday, April 15, 1985.

Please write for details, enclosing a large self-addressed envelope to Jane Chantrell, NACRO, 169 Clapham Road, London SW9 0PU.

Principal Officer Juveniles

NACRO wishes to appoint a Principal Officer to manage its two well-established DHSS-funded development projects, to extend its work, and to co-ordinate its policy in the area of juvenile crime and juvenile offenders. The Juvenile Crime Unit, funded until December, 1986, has a national brief to develop greater co-ordination and community involvement in dealing with juvenile crime. The Juvenile Offenders Team is presently funded until the summer of 1986 and has the role of furthering and monitoring the overall impact of the DHSS Intermediate Treatment initiative announced in LAC (83)3.

You should have experience in social services, probation, academic institutes, or in the voluntary sector — preferably with responsibility for juvenile offenders, intermediate treatment, inter-agency work, project development, or research. Considerable travelling and unsocial hours will be involved.

The post is based in London and has assured funding until summer 1986. The starting salary is £12,030 (increment scale) plus £1,300 London weighting.

Closing date April 12, 1985.

Interview April 24, 1985.

Write for details enclosing a large self-addressed envelope to Jane Lyons, NACRO, 169 Clapham Road, London SW9 0PU.

As an equal opportunities employer, we welcome applications from anyone regardless of colour, ethnic origin or sex, and from disabled people and ex-offenders.

NACRO

For the care of offenders and the prevention of crime

Community Service Supervisors

Applications are invited from suitably experienced men and women for vacancies for community service supervisors which are expected to arise shortly in the Midlands area of Greater London. Those appointed will be responsible for making arrangements for and supervising work carried out by offenders subject to community service orders. Salary, inclusive of London weighting and excess rate, will be on the scale £8,472 — £13,236 per annum. Regular weekend work is involved for which additional payments are made.

The ability to drive is necessary and an essential car user allowance is paid.

Forms of application (to be returned by 10th April 1985) and further information are available from: The Chief Probation Officer, Middlesex Area Probation Service, 1-4 King Street, Covent Garden, London WC2E 8NN. Telephone: 01-469 1736.

MIDDLESEX AREA PROBATION SERVICE

Interested in Current Affairs?

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Our busy Environment & Public Affairs department requires a graduate with sound secretarial and organisational skills to help with internal administration. The department's main functions are to keep our members informed on a wide range of topical issues affecting women today and to promote our policies to Government and other decision makers.

The successful candidate will be expected to ensure the smooth running of the department, and to assist in our research and information work on a wide variety of current affairs topics.

We offer a salary of around £7,500 pa and offices in a convenient location 5 minutes walk from Victoria Station.

Please ring or write for an application form: Ann Bence, NATIONAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S INSTITUTES, 39 Euston Street, London SW1W 9NT. 01-730 7212. Applications to be returned by 15th April, 1985.

WESTMINSTER ASSOCIATION FOR MENTAL HEALTH

HOUSING SUPPORT WORKER

WAMH is looking for an energetic support worker for our three houses in the City of Westminster.

The post will involve responsibility for the successful running of these and possible future projects, for ensuring adequate support by professional agencies, close contact with the residents and a number of housing associations and maintenance of the houses.

An understanding of the problems of mental illness is essential, together with the ability to deal with difficulties calmly.

The successful applicant will be based at the WAMH office in NW Westminster with five other members of staff including the housing development worker.

A certain amount of evening work will arise, for which time off in lieu is allowed.

Salary NAC Scale 5 + Inner London Weighting.

Holidays — 25 days per year.

Application form and job description from: Margaret Brookmuhl, WAMH, Church House, Newton Road, W2 5LS.

Tel: 01-221 6198/1214

Closing date 12.4.85.



MENCAP
THE ROYAL SOCIETY FOR MENTALLY HANDICAPPED CHILDREN AND ADULTS
AND AVON COUNTY COUNCIL

require a

PATHWAY EMPLOYMENT OFFICER

based in BRISTOL

The Pathway Employment Service, which is run by MENCAP, aims to find suitable open employment for mentally handicapped people through close liaison with employers in local industry and commerce and provides on-going support for both employee and employer.

Experience in industry or commerce essential. Practical experience of teaching or training mentally handicapped people desirable.

Salary scale: £7,812-£11,000. Starting point according to experience. Driving licence required as car provided.

For details and an application form, please send a S44 to: The Personnel Department, MENCAP National Centre, 123 Golden Lane, London EC1Y 0RT.

Closing date for completed applications: 17th April, 1985.

Interviews to be held on Wednesday, 8th May, 1985.

Appeals Officer

(London)

£6,555 p.a. — £9,795 p.a. + £1,248 p.a. ILWA

The Spastics Society is one of Britain's largest charities. It is a dynamic, progressive and campaigning organisation that helps cerebral palsy people in all walks of life. The Society is actively working towards the integration of disabled people into the community and is committed to developing a more positive attitude towards disability. Our staff are of a high calibre and adopt a professional attitude to their work.

Appeals Officers are a vital part of our team as the funds they raise help The Society to continue to provide its many important services. The person we are looking for will normally be aged 21+ and have the ability, initiative, and imagination to devise new fund-raising methods while continuing to obtain the best results from those already in existence. Although experience and a good education would be advantageous more essential are the ability to motivate and organise and the communicative skills to deal with a wide range of people. When you fund raise for a charity you need more than just the human touch, you need a mind for business as well.

If you are prepared to work irregular hours including weekends and evenings and have a clear driving licence and believe you meet our requirements, please contact Mrs L. Dubash, Assistant Personnel Officer, on 01-635 5020, Ext. 288.

Closing Date: 10 April, 1985.

THE SPASTICS SOCIETY

Private and Voluntary Homes (Registration and Inspection) Officer

Salary £10,716-£11,562 plus £657 London Weighting

The Social Services Department is responsible for enforcing the Residential Homes Act 1980, which is shortly to be replaced by a new 1984 Act, which widens the requirements for Registration with the Council and increases the duties of owners and managers relating to conduct of such Homes.

This post has recently been created to increase the Department's effectiveness in maintaining a high standard in the Private and Voluntary sector. Two other staff are engaged in this work on a part-time basis.

We are looking for someone with good experience in Social Services or residential establishments, and who is preferably qualified (CSS or CQSW). The qualities we are seeking include: effective oral and written communication; ability to motivate others; availability to conduct inspection at any time of the day or evening; ability to be firm without causing offence.

The grade of this post is PO1 and includes an essential user car allowance.

If you are interested in more details, please telephone ext 2377 for an application form and job description, or ext 2138 if you want to arrange a brief informal discussion with David Clatridge, Assistant Director of Social Services.

Application forms available from Social Services, Central Administration, Room 2-25, Taberner House, Park Lane, Croydon, Tel 01-885 4933 ext 2377.

CROYDON
An equal opportunity employer

ARCHAEOLOGIST

Ref PLA/6952/73

Salary: pro rata to £8,555.

This post is for a fixed term of one year. Required to undertake the work of computerising the Avon Sites and Monuments Record and related tasks.

Applicants should possess a good degree in archaeology, have experience in dealing with archaeological records and have reasonable knowledge of archaeological sites of all periods.

Further details and application form, returnable by 17th April, 1985, from Director of Personnel (Tel Bristol 298565 — Answerphone on this number after office hours), PO Box 270, Avon House, The Haymarket, Bristol BS99 7HE.

Avon is an equal opportunities employer.

Please quote reference number.

Avon
COUNTY COUNCIL

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS COUNCILS FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE & ETHNIC MINORITIES PROJECT

CVSNA is looking for a DEVELOPMENT OFFICER based at NCVO to promote and support anti-racist work with Councils for Voluntary Service and better links between CVS and black and ethnic minority organisations. The current postholder is leaving to have a baby.

Applicants should have a demonstrable commitment to anti-racism, experience in CVS or similar voluntary organisations, as well as work with ethnic minorities. An ability to develop and sustain an individual work programme is essential, though job sharers will be considered.

Salary scale £8,493-£10,729 plus £1,300 London Weighting pa. Five weeks' annual leave pro rata.

The project is funded to the end of March, 1986, but CVSNA has a policy commitment to continue the project.

Apply to: The Personnel Officer, NCVO, 26 Bedford Square, London WC1E 3EU, for further details and application form. Closing date for completed applications: 18th April, 1985.

NCVO is an equal opportunities employer

GRAMPIAN REGIONAL COUNCIL

MANPOWER SERVICES DEPT

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (MANAGEMENT SERVICES)

£14,697-£15,777

This senior post in Aberdeen takes account of the fact that the successful candidate will be responsible for the management of the Council's personnel services. The postholder will be responsible for the management of the Council's personnel services, including the recruitment, training, development, and welfare of staff.

Applicants should be members of Institute of Management Services and be qualified in personnel management. Experience in leading a management services team, in conducting work study and O & A reviews, and ability to develop and sustain an individual work programme is essential, though job sharers will be considered.

Very attractive pension and retirement package available in appropriate cases. Superannuation scheme, medical and dental cover, and other benefits as applicable.

Further details and application forms from Director of Manpower Services, Grampian House, Aberdeen AB9 1AA. Tel: 0222 221 2279. Closing date April 22, 1985.

WARRINGTON HOUSING ASSOCIATION DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

A small community-based Housing Association, we are looking to appoint a Development Officer to take responsibility for all aspects of the Association's varied development programme.

Whilst experience of Housing Associations/development would be an advantage, flexibility, enthusiasm and administrative ability are essential and applications will be considered from related professions.

Salary £6,555-£9,114 pa, starting salary dependent on experience. NJC equivalent conditions, including essential car user allowance and local government pension scheme.

Further details and application form from: 33 Bold Street, Warrington, Cheshire WA1 1HQ. Tel 0925 571961.

Cheshire

COMMUNITY EDUCATION WORKER

£9,087 — £10,209

CHESTER

Applications are invited from qualified Youth Workers for the above post at Blacon County Youth Centre, Blacon, Chester.

Conditions of service as per J.N.C. Report Youth Workers and Community Centre Workers.

Application forms and further details obtainable from The District Education Officer, Cheshire County Council, 85 Wellington Road, Egham, Surrey, TW20 1EX. Tel: 081-355 7133. Closing date 12th April, 1985. All applicants will be considered on the basis of suitability for the post, regardless of sex, race, marital status, religion or disability.

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DIARY

SIR WILLIAM van Straubenzee, stranger to bitter disputes, has now locked horns with the doctors over the little black-edged cards which some of them send to MPs when a constituent dies of a smoking-related disease. "It's an unfeeling and soulless method of carrying on an argument," he says.

Sir William, Tory Member for Wokingham, recently received such a card from Dr Mike Ingram of Battle Hospital, Reading. He responded with angry letters to Ingram and complaints to the General Medical Council and the local health authority, which has asked the doctor not to send any more cards carrying the hospital's name.

Sir William says he could have identified the ex-constituent by checking a number on the card against the hospital admissions list, and this would amount to a breach of confidence by the doctor. The British Medical Association, which launched the card idea in December, is backing Ingram. "It's extraordinary that the MP should misunderstand the situation and mislead people into thinking information is not confidential when it patently is," said a spokeswoman. "Many doctors have shown great enthusiasm for the cards as a way of getting the message across."

MASONIC NOTE: My learned friend recalls how he was clearing out a cellar at his chambers recently and encountered a strangely shaped in trunk which yielded obscure regalia. A leather apron with gold tassels, a couple of gongs, some terribly impressive quinquets — that sort of thing. My learned friend is sure that the gear belongs to no contemporary person, so the chambers shall be no less this time.

THIS OFFICE is locked up... his secretary has been moved to other duties. It is as if he had never been. Mike Hollingsworth, the third programme director at TV-am, has become an unperson. Such is life at Borgias Lock when you tangle with the hard men at the top.

Hollingsworth returns next week from a month of compassionate leave and his stay is likely to be brief. What's behind it all? Well, Hollingsworth wanted money to improve news and current affairs, but managing director Bruce Gynell appears more concerned to make the books look good for the expected stock market flotation of the newly-buoyant company. So prepare for repeats of Roland Rat.

A NEW record in foot-dragging from the Department of Health and Social Security: The Blackfriars Advice Centre in London wrote to Dr Rhodes Boyson on September 20, 1983 querying regulations about supplementary benefit for people in hospital. The reply arrived on February 20 this year. The Department dated the letter February 1984, which may make it look better on their own files, but the figures they quote are the 1985 ones.

THE BBC's head of pronunciation has consulted the dictionaries and found the word "cervical", common in recent medical stories, should be spoken with a short "i", as in "it". The trouble is that the favoured pronunciation among doctors is with a long "i", as in "it". One reason why the BBC went for the short version, though, is that people — TV newscasters, for example — tend to add an "i" if they use the other version, saying "cervical". There is no central guidance on these matters for ITV companies, and the ITN bulletin with one style of pronouncing the other word was followed by other word was followed by other word was followed by other word.

It's something to become a bore. And more than that, at twenty-four... He gives his Oraleine a stir. And nibbles at a petit beurre.

These lines are from Sir Geoffrey Howe's favourite John Betjeman poem, the Wykehamist, published in a slim book available through the Nationwide Building Society from the Parkinson's Disease Society. Sir John's dedication of the poem, mysteriously, is not to Sir Geoffrey, but to Randolph Churchill.

PRESIDENT Reagan was jirring from the hip at an off-the-record dinner for the journalists which was the talk of Washington within hours. The US farm crisis "I think we should keep the grain and export the farmers," said Reagan. "No, I think we should keep the farmers and export the grain," said a journalist. "That's good," said Reagan. "I think we should keep the farmers and export the grain," said a journalist. "That's good," said Reagan.

Stephen Cook

A BURST of speculation at the weekend has brought the Irish Question once more to the top of the political agenda. Is Mrs Thatcher preparing to incur the risks involved in trying to bring about a settlement in Northern Ireland? It looks as if she may be.

When the Hong Kong agreement was signed last week the dialogue, it is said, went like this: Howe: After Hong Kong, Northern Ireland? Thatcher: No Geoffrey, that's quite a different matter.

Now it may be more nearly, "Yes Geoffrey." Inside observers are noting similarities between the Prime Minister's recent behaviour and the behaviour that has preceded her previous great leaps — on Rhodesia and the opening of a dialogue with the Soviets.

Last Friday, Sir Geoffrey and the Northern Ireland Secretary, Mr Douglas Hogg, flew together to Dublin. Plainly the intense diplomacy which had been going on since the Anglo-Irish summit at Chequers last November was coming to a head. The talks in Dublin were preparatory to talks between Mrs Thatcher and Dr FitzGerald which will take place on the sidelines of the EEC summit in Brussels this weekend. That meeting will be an important occasion.

They are likely to agree on a new summit to be held after the district council elections in Northern Ireland on May 15 — only when they are confident that they can tie up the package which has been under negotiation since the Chequers talks.

All had gone well then until Mrs Thatcher at her press conference afterwards pulled the rug brutally from under Dr FitzGerald by making it plain that the agenda for their continuing diplomacy was not to be the agenda set out in the report of the New Ireland Forum. With her famous "Out, out, out," she dismissed all three of the forum's options and gave the impression that she had failed to appreciate the more conciliatory position which the nationalist parties had taken towards the problem of the North.

These three setbacks — damaging to Dr FitzGerald — gave the impression that the Chequers meeting had failed. It had not. The purpose of the meeting was to set a pro-

cess in motion, and this it achieved. Mrs Thatcher had not been ready to decide if she was willing to risk the attempt at a new settlement in Northern Ireland. The Brighton bombing led to a psychological pause and, in any case, Mr Arthur Scargill provided the perfect excuse for not opening a second front with the Protestants of Northern Ireland.

Since then, skillfully persuaded, she has come a long way, although not yet to the point necessary to clinch an agreement with Dublin. She has been involved in the full detail of what has been going on. Essentially the proposition is that the Irish Republic be allowed some role in Northern Ireland which would give the Catholic minority there the confidence to acquiesce in the ending of direct rule and a new devolution of power.

Whereas the New Ireland Forum had tried to prescribe a British dimension within

an all-Ireland context, what is now under discussion — much more realistically from the British point of view — is an Irish dimension within a United Kingdom context. Through some form of institutionalised joint consultation the Dublin Government would become, in effect, the guarantor of the minority in the North while the majority there accepted, in effect, the legitimacy of the Protestant majority.

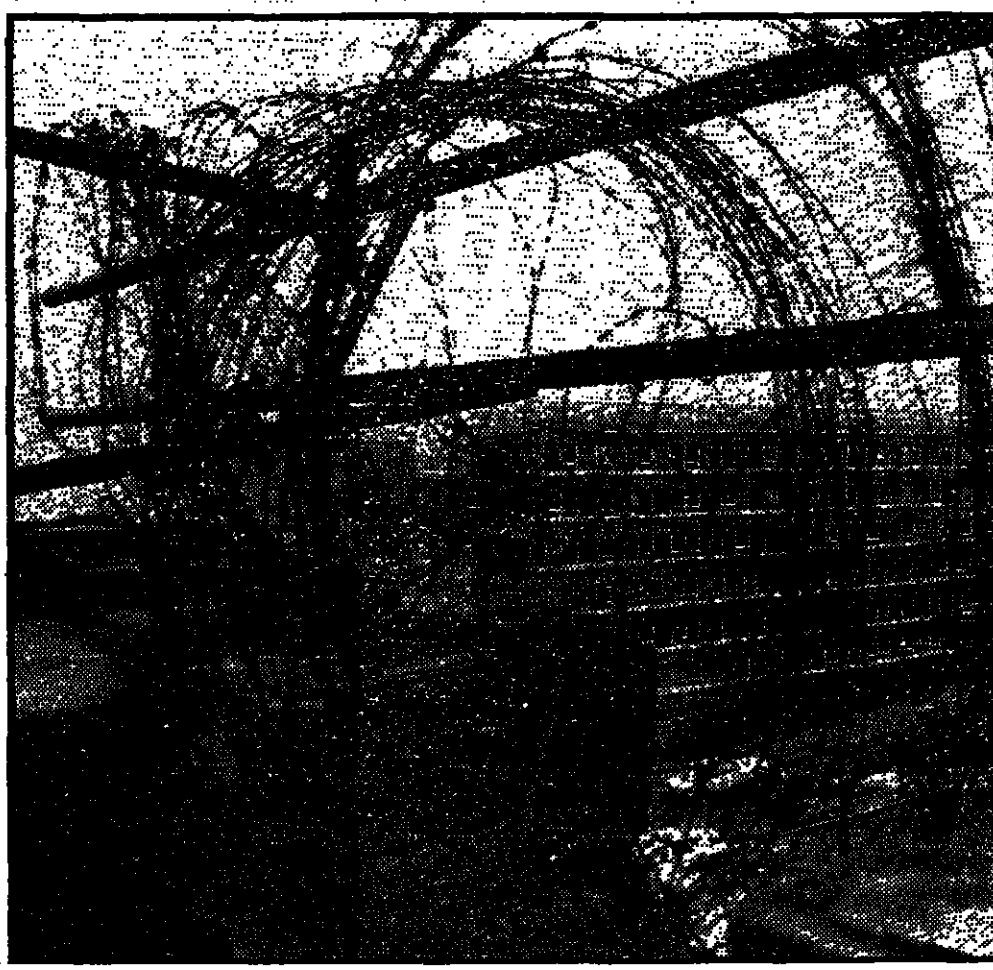
For such a deal to work, Dr FitzGerald would have to be able to persuade Mr John Hume and the Social Democratic and Labour Party to participate in an assembly (not the present assembly but something like it) on a basis of something less than power-sharing. Mrs Thatcher would have to persuade the Protestants to acquiesce in the Republic being allowed some say in the affairs of the North, although something less than joint authority.



Peter Jenkins

Signs of a settlement though not a solution

"The people of Northern Ireland live in circumstances which cannot be permitted to continue." Picture of flats in the Bogside by Denis Thorpe



What kind of say? Dr FitzGerald could not enter into an arrangement which made the Republic no more than a long-stop to the Royal Ulster Constabulary. He is not seeking political concessions for the Republic, but some arrangement which will actually improve conditions in the North. He doesn't want to go home with a scrap of paper saying "Peace in our time," he wants to see some peace on the ground.

The Republic's role in the North must in practice however it may be described in theory — enable the bulk of the Catholic community to acquiesce in a resumption of Protestant rule. Moreover, he has got to be able to sell the deal to Mr Hume, a section of whose party takes its lead from Mr Charlie Haughey and Fianna Fail.

Mrs Thatcher, we can well imagine, recalls from any arrangement which implies

on the sovereignty of the United Kingdom. Sovereignty is the foulest buzz-word in her lexicon. She refuses to discuss it in connection with the Falklands; she takes her stand on it within the European Community. Last week her officials tried her with the word "status" to describe the Republic's role in the North. She wouldn't have it.

Thus it is by no means yet certain that she is ready to agree on an arrangement which will go far enough to meet the needs of Dr FitzGerald.

Meanwhile, Mr Christopher Patten, the junior minister at the Northern Ireland Office, has been set the dispiriting task of exploring with the local politicians the prospects for a new internal settlement. This is the second prong of the British Government's policy.

The key figure as always is Dr Ian Paisley. His role in

Northern Ireland politics resembles that of an Alistair dog. The Protestants may not like him much, but they like having him around. Is he content to live for ever under direct rule from Westminster? How much is he prepared to pay for a leading role in a devolved government?

There will be no clear or satisfactory answers to those questions, only Irish answers. There is no avoiding risk in this matter and the risks are high. Whatever Mrs Thatcher and Dr FitzGerald agree, if they do, will be put to the test by terrorist violence.

Throughout the modern history of the Irish question, the spectre of Protestant violence confronts any British prime minister who dares to tamper with the terms of the union.

At home, Mrs Thatcher is under no great political compulsion to do anything. There is no important Irish

constituency in British politics; a broad bi-partisanship prevails at Westminster; the public for the most part has kept its nerve in the face of he occasional outrages. The political risks of an initiative which ends in blood and flames is probably greater than the risk of doing nothing.

By the same analysis, however, she has ample room to move if she wishes. The public wants above all to see the Irish Question go away. There is a growing unreliability to permit the inhabitants of one corner of what they are the first to insist is the United Kingdom to impose their veto on the conduct of the United Kingdom's foreign policy. She has a huge and secure majority at Westminster where, within her own party, Unionism is on the wane. The new generation of Conservative MPs is more nationalist than Unionist, as is Mrs Thatcher herself.

She has an authority for attempting a new settlement in Northern Ireland far greater than any of her predecessors since the troubles resumed in the Sixties. No successor may have the opportunity that is hers for years to come.

In Dr FitzGerald she has a brave and honourable partner. He and she both know that a solution to the Irish Question is beyond their powers. What is projected now is not a solution to the Irish Question, but for the first time an historic joint endeavour by the two nations to devise a new settlement for the North within the United Kingdom.

The Protestants of the North should know that they cannot hope to fare better at Mrs Thatcher's hands than at Dr FitzGerald's. For Britain, the problems of Northern Ireland are costly in blood and in money. For the Republic, the violence which prospers in the North is a threat to the peace and the liberty of the South.

For all of us the situation in Northern Ireland is a corrupting and brutalising influence which does damage to our country for a kind we cannot measure. The people of Northern Ireland live in circumstances which cannot be tolerated or permitted to continue. At last, there is a moment of real hope. Not to seize it would be a crime.



The New York subway: home of the Saturday Night Special. Picture by Denis Thorpe

Neighbourhood schools, reports W. J. Weatherby, now reflect the dangers of the streets

The future New York offers the world

THE NEW YORK subway was crowded with teenagers, money-obsessed, macho New York on a miniature juvenile scale. Blaming it all on the kids is an easy way of looking at what is wrong with big city schools and loses the politicians no votes, but it doesn't get at the real cause of all the trouble.

The main impression from students I met was a general feeling of confusion about the values of the society they live in. Many of them complained they are getting conflicting messages from the people they are taught: they should respect, whether it is their parents, teachers, religious leaders or politicians. That seems to be why so many of them fall for the brainwashing of television or the streets. Violence and lack of discipline don't seem to be the problem so much as a pervasive cynicism about the adult world among many of the teenagers.

In the high schools I visited, the first person I saw was a uniformed security guard. To reach a classroom I often had to go through a strict identity check. I might have been trying to penetrate the gold vaults of Fort Knox instead of just a neighbourhood school. The atmosphere was more like a prison than a centre of learning, and undoubtedly affected both students and teachers (who are underpaid compared with many other professional workers and make no secret of their resentment to their students).

Most of the students I talked with were very frank about their weapons, often showing me a concealed knife or a razor in a back pocket, but invariably they claimed it was for self-protection. In most cases I believed them. The dangers of New York streets are

reflected in its schools. Like New York neighbourhoods, schools are often divided into rival racial groups, and a fight between members of different groups can lead to inter-family warfare in which the students find themselves in the front line. Several youths described how they had a fight with another student and then were attacked on the way home by his older brothers or even his father.

Another common reason for being armed was for protection against thieves at school or in the streets who try to rob younger students of watches, jewellery, or their pocket money and subway tokens. Some youths also said they liked to be armed when they took out their girlfriends in case other youths tried to "muscle in" on their girls.

The violence that is part of everyday New York life is thus closely reflected in its schools, and the politicians' stress on discipline as a solution is the same oversimplification as claiming more prisons and stiffer penalties are the solution for New York crime. That conveniently avoids dealing with the kind of society New Yorkers have created and that influences the students more strongly than anything else. Some New Yorkers who come from the Deep South are so scared of the effects of the city that they send their children to grow up in the south until they are old enough to resist the brainwashing.

A youth of 16 who had been a good student at one high school suddenly started playing truant and taking drugs and finally was involved in a fight in which he stabbed another student. Teachers discovered he had obtained the knife originally to try to persuade his father to stop beating up his

mother, and the mounting pressure on him had found an outlet at school.

In another school I was introduced to a 17-year-old girl who carried a pistol her father had given her in case of attempted rape in the school or on the way home. The students reflect the society outside probably most in their sexual attitudes. The confusion in American society — the constant stress on the way home by his older brothers or even his father.

Teenage pregnancies are at a record level. For Americans aged 15 to 19, the rate is 96 per 1,000, compared with 45 per 1,000 in England, 44 in Canada, 43 in France and 14 in the Netherlands. The great abortion debate with leaders of society arguing both ways has certainly confused teenagers, many of whom are ill-informed even about birth control methods.

Another bad influence on students, especially those from black ghettos, is the high unemployment rate. It undoubtedly accounts for much of the record number of drop-outs — roughly 42 per cent fail to complete the full 12 years — and some of the wild or desperate behaviour of those who remain.

Much attention has been given to the booming drug trade in the schools, but that is a direct development from what is happening in the streets outside where drugs are often openly sold, and undercover cops are now mingling with the students just as they do with street hustlers. As in New York generally, drugs are one of the main causes of violence and the possession of weapons in the schools,

and the drug trade in the classroom cannot be stopped until the city stops it in the streets.

The same applies to weapons. In mid-town Manhattan there are shop window displays of vicious looking knives of all sizes, and guns are easily obtained through drug dealers. One youth of 16 had bought his Saturday Night Special for \$50, which is roughly the price of a top Broadway theatre ticket. But when you visit suburban homes and the head of the house proudly displays his gun collection, or when you watch television moves constantly glorifying this macho attitude towards guns, the armed students seem merely pathetic imitations of the adult world.

The glorification, at least at first, of Bernard Goetz for shooting four young men on the subway for alleged harassment has had a strong effect on teenagers, but the moral many of them draw is not that harassment is wrong but that the use of guns and breaking the law can be justifiable. This explains partly why the Goetz case has been reopened and the New York police and media have become more critical of his action.

The Supreme Court ruled recently that teachers can search students as long as there are reasonable grounds, but there was a near riot at one school when teachers tried to make such searches routine. President Reagan now wants greater legal protection for teachers when they take disciplinary action. "I'll sue you" is a threat students sometimes make and recent government statements have stressed the "likely chilling effect" on teachers of such legal threats.

DEREK MALCOLM on the Oscars

Wolfgang Amadeus Superstar

AS IS their habit, Hollywood's Academy members flung most of their eggs into one basket... by giving Amadeus eight Oscars, thus elevating a chap called Mozart into the status of superstar in an area he could never have expected, sublimely conceded as he was.

The Academy also elevated a Cambodian doctor, with no previous acting experience — and no wish to continue being an actor — into a bankable star by according Haing S. Ngor the Best Supporting Actor Oscar for his role as Dith Pran in The Killing Fields.

In any other era, Britain would have been judged to have come out of the American film industry's giant television industry with a posse of awards, the most popular of which was the Best Supporting Actress Oscar for Peggy Ashcroft. She remained at home with a cold, and was thus unable to savour the sustained applause.

But this, of course, is no ordinary era for British Oscar triumphs, after Charlots Of Fire and Gandhi, and the home contingent at the ceremony was entitled to feel a little disappointed. Lean's A Passage To India, raved over by most American critics, and Putnam and Joffe's The Killing Fields, which also received high praise, were thought likely to get more than five nods between them, none of them in the major categories.

Instead, Amadeus got Best Film Best Director (Milos Forman, the exiled Czech) and Best Actor (F. Murray Abraham, now no longer known as F. Murray Who?). Our own Peter Shaffer pre-eminently got the Best Screenplay award — the one for work based originally on material from another medium; and although even the Academy couldn't give Mozart an Oscar for the best music, Amadeus got the Oscar for Best Sound — perhaps the next best thing.

By all accounts, it was a slicker, shorter affair than usual which will please Norman Jewison, who once produced the show and afterwards complained that he couldn't stop everyone thanking their mothers and home helps. What won't have pleased him so much was that his own A Soldier's Story, which risked a largely black cast, got nothing, despite several nominations.

The most telling speech was undoubtedly made by Ngor who recounted his experiences under the Khmer Rouge, held up his right hand to show they severed his little finger and said of The Killing Fields: "It was real, but not real enough. True, but not true enough." He added that the suffering of the Cambodian people continued to this day.

It was more or less certain

that one of the leading actresses from the three American homestead movies would get the Best Actress award. But one had hoped that Sally Field might not achieve it for Robert Benton's sentimental Places In The Heart, since she gave virtually the same performance, rewarded by an Oscar, in Martin Ritt's Norma Rae. She won, however, and poor Jessica Lange, paired with Sam Shepard in the much superior Country, was left at the post. The general feeling was that she and Shepard were thought of as too anti-Hollywood.

One of the worst selected categories in recent years has been that of Best Foreign Language Film, since individual countries are asked to nominate (which leaves the whole thing open to much political manoeuvring) and few Academicians even bother to see the films.

This year reached the nadir, with no French film nominated despite the presence of Collette Tautou's highly successful and splendid Sunday In The Country, and an Israeli film called Beyond The Walls, which I and many others walked out of at Venice, among the nominees. The Oscar went to the Swiss film Dangerous Moves, an intriguing but not outstanding effort about a world championship chess match between a Russian and an exiled dissident.

One can, however, praise the Academy for singling out The Life And Times Of Harvey Milk as the best feature-length documentary. Milk was the openly gay San Francisco councillor murdered by a former colleague on the city's legislative body, and the film is an impressive record of what he achieved for the gay community and other minorities.



هكذا من الاصل

Building aircraft was a matter of metal bashing... now electronics has taken over



NOTEBOOK

Hamish McRae

BRITISH Aerospace's last results before becoming fully privatised — well, fully but for the government's single "golden share" — give no cause for alarm, and some cause for satisfaction. There

is nothing in the results that should undermine confidence in the group's future: if there are any clouds looming over the proposed privatisation of the rest of its shares, plus the intended rights issue, they are not apparent here.

That does not mean that there are no hard decisions ahead. The fall in profits from civil aircraft points to a cyclical weakness in the group: it has to crank out profits from its newest aircraft, in particular the 146 feeder liner, in order to fund future civil developments. Such is the time-scale of aircraft development combined with the structure of the group, that it has a very mixed portfolio of civil aircraft mostly inherited from its constituent parts. Aircraft like the 225 executive jet, the turbo-prop jet, the new 146 or the share in the Airbus do not fit together in a logical family, as do the

products of, say, Boeing.

The mixed portfolio may not be a disadvantage because a company that goes for limited segments of the market rather than offer an integrated range. But it cannot afford losers.

The product that has to sell well is the 146, if the group is to continue to have a secure future in civil aircraft, for that is its newest and most expensive enterprise. If the 146 proves only a modest success, then it may be the last civil airliner developed as a sole project by the British aviation industry.

Civil aircraft, as the company stresses, are only 25 per cent of its turnover. Its military products are its mainstay, both military aircraft and, increasingly, other equipment. Here the key question is rather different: the investor is not asking whether a necessarily ecen-

tric collection of planes will appeal to the world market, but whether military equipment will be as profitable in the future as in the past.

You can make the obvious point that price was apparently the chief reason why British Aerospace did not get the RAF trainer contract a few days ago. Does this herald a new thrust for cost-effectiveness in military purchasing? Not quite. But it does take a stage further a trend which was already evident: the trend towards fixed-price contracts rather than the old cost-plus.

Aerospace would welcome an injection of this sort of commercial discipline and would point to the fixed price elements in the Jaguar contract as a useful contribution to that project's effective cost control. In theory it would be perfectly possible for fixed price contracts to increase the profitability of a

military supplier. But will that be the way things turn out?

Looking further ahead, the most interesting questions perhaps focus on the whole balance of British Aerospace's business. We think of it now as an aircraft producer: a metal basher, albeit a very sophisticated one. But will that be its future? Will it not become more of an electronics company? Is that not where the high value-added segment of the aircraft industry will be? To get there will it need to acquire further assets?

Making the electronics for satellites is not really metal bashing any more, and it is doing that already. But beyond...

Society secret

ACCORDING to the Bank of England, no less than 40 per cent of the money lent by

building societies last year was not spent on buying houses but was taken out and either invested elsewhere or spent on other things.

This startling estimate was disclosed last night by the Governor of the Bank in his speech to the Finance Houses Association. The Bank has been doing a fair amount of work in recent years on this phenomenon of "equity leakage", but this new figure for 1984, amounting to about £7 billion, is the most dramatic example yet of the way in which building societies are becoming like banks.

Before you assume that the societies are blithely ignoring requests that they should not lend for things other than house purchase, you have to make a qualification. When people move house it is very difficult to identify precisely how much of their loan is ploughed

back into the new house and how much goes on a skiing holiday. After all, surely a prudent house purchaser would leave himself or herself some leeway in the financial arithmetic. Would one seriously advise anyone to borrow only the bare minimum necessary to move house?

Still, the scale of the leakage from home loans to consumer lending does make rather a nonsense of the tax advantages granted to home borrowers. It is no good fussing about the level of consumer borrowing, and then encouraging it by giving tax relief on a large segment of it.

Elsewhere in his speech Mr Leigh-Pemberton stressed the authorities' continuing concern about the demand for bank credit by the private sector, now rising at an annual rate of 20 per cent. "Such a rate is far higher

than is consistent with the comfortable attainment of the present target for broad money," he said.

That means high interest rates are here for a while yet.

Reagan's worry

IT IS happening. The possibility that the dollar might collapse is for the first time acknowledged by President Reagan. In comments yesterday to journalists he said: "There are those who look back at Bretton Woods and take another look and see that there have been distortions or whether something better can be worked out. We're always willing to listen and look at this, and I agree that if there was a sudden, you might say, collapse of the dollar...

BA responds with 26 per cent price cut

UK-Luxembourg air fare curbs scrapped

By David Simpson

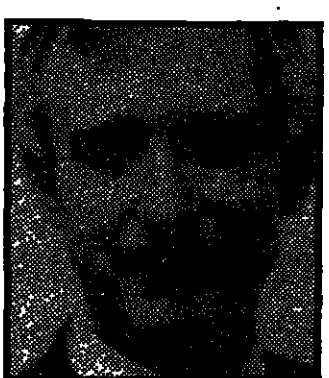
The move to deregulate international air fare took a significant step forward yesterday when the UK and Luxembourg agreed to remove all restrictions on route access, tariffs and capacity between the two countries.

This is believed to be the first time that two nations have scrapped the "double disapproval" clause under which the agreement of both governments is necessary for any route or fare changes.

The arrangement, which is believed to owe a great deal to the initiatives of the transport minister, Mr Michael Spicer, led to an immediate decision by British Airways to slice its return fares between the two countries by up to 26 per cent from Sunday.

Britain has recently reached agreement with the Netherlands and West Germany to liberalise air traffic restrictions, but the contract with Luxembourg goes a great deal further.

The Dutch and West German schemes allow airlines to amend one-way air fares from the country of origin, but not to alter identical return fares without the express approval of the second country.



Michael Spicer

Under the UK/Luxembourg arrangement, any airline operating between the two nations may introduce any fares it chooses, including on a return basis, without first gaining the permission of either country's government.

It also enables any airline from either country to introduce fares without prior dual governmental blessing for the first time.

"It is our aim that this arrangement with Luxembourg should set the standard for arrangements we could like to make with other countries in Europe," Mr Spicer said yesterday.

Traffic between Luxembourg and the UK is small in overall terms, but the agreement could put pressure on countries neighbouring the Grand Duchy to follow in deregulating scheduled air travel restraints.

One possibility is that travellers from the UK to Belgium or France, for example, may find it cheaper to fly through Luxembourg rather than directly to their destination.

Mr Spicer and the commercial airlines have also argued that the ability to offer lower fares without prior agreement from governments, to meet existing demand, can lead to increased traffic on the routes in question. Traffic between London and Amsterdam has increased by twice as much as on other European routes from Heathrow since the British/Dutch fares liberalisation, according to British Airways figures.

Discussions on similar agreements with Italy, France and Switzerland have been going on for some time, and could now gather new momentum following the Luxembourg agreement, but it is possible that the next step forward could consist of a similar "deal" scheme between the UK and Scandinavia.

Standard edges away from S.A.

By Peter Rodgers

Standard Chartered Bank acknowledged yesterday that it may eventually give up majority control of its South African subsidiary, which produced a third of the group's profits last year.

Managing director Michael McWilliam said: "It is likely that, in the course of time, it will go to less than 50 per cent but we are not putting a sale notice up now."

The Bank of Boston collectively announced in Boston that it will stop making loans to private firms and banks in South Africa out of opposition to apartheid.

Bank of Boston Chairman William Brown said, in a statement that the bank last year made \$75 million in loans to private firms in South Africa and that these loans will expire next year.

Standard Chartered has already reduced its stake in its South African subsidiary to 50.3 per cent, mainly through not contributing new capital to back the bank's expansion, a trend which is likely to continue.

However, as a further reduction in shareholding would remove the bank's formal control of the subsidiary, Mr McWilliam said, "Any next step would be of a different order of consequence from the previous ones and there would have to be a major discussion." He would not put a timescale on when the decision would come up.

Unlike Barclays Bank's South African subsidiary, Standard Chartered did very well last year, with a 19 per cent increase in profits in Rand terms, though after translating to sterling the profit was down on the year because of the weakness of the South African currency.

As a result, for the first time the group's California subsidiary, Union Bank, produced a slightly larger net profit than South Africa, which Mr McWilliam said was "a milestone for us."

The Hong Kong business recovered from its property lending problems.

The Standard Chartered group raised its pretax profit to £22 million to £29 million, after shedding away a "cautious" £169 million for bad and doubtful debts, a £35 million increase.

Specific provisions for known debts have been raised to £11 million to £118 million, and general provisions to £51 million. The figures include over £14 million against debts owed by Argentina and Brazil. The dividend is up only 0.5p to 28.5p.

The figures also include a £5 million loss due to providing half of Standard Chartered's £10 million guarantee to the Bank of England against losses at Johnson Matthey Bankers. Specific provisions against South Africa had debts have nearly doubled to £31 million, and for Union Bank they have doubled to £19 million.

Standard Chartered is still thought to be looking for acquisitions in Britain to boost UK earnings.

Sultan in Dorchester sacking row

By Andrew Cornelius

The Sultan of Brunei is trying to sack Regent International, the company which manages the Dorchester Hotel for him.

Regent manages the Dorchester in London's Park Lane as part of the deal whereby the Sultan bought the hotel for £50 million plus in January this year.

However, Pageguide, the British-registered company which is ultimately owned by the Sultan, is now embroiled in High Court action to terminate Regent's management contract.

Proceedings began at the end of last month when Pageguide issued a notice of termination of Regent's management agreement on the

grounds that it was not satisfied with the standard of Regent's management. Regent fought this action in the High Court and won an injunction which established its right to continue managing the world's most famous hotel.

Pageguide, with the full approval of the Sultan, has now decided to attempt to get the injunction lifted by appealing again to the High Court. Last night a spokesman for the Dorchester said that this case was due to be heard in April.

Last night Regent would not comment on the proceedings. The Sultan of Brunei is reputedly one of the richest men in the world and has maintained a suite at the Dorchester for several years. He emerged as a surprise bidder for the hotel in January, just

six months after the hotel had been taken over by a consortium headed by Regent International in a \$40 million deal. The takeover deal included a provision for Regent to continue managing the hotel.

Since then relations between Pageguide, the Sultan's operating company, and Regent, have soured.

Behind the disagreement lies the Sultan's determination to make the Dorchester one of the most luxurious hotels in the world. He has pledged to spend \$20 million on refurbishment there within the next three years, in addition to the extensive work already taking place.

The Dorchester is benefiting from the booming demand for hotel rooms in London since the pound began its dramatic

slide against the dollar and is fully booked for the summer. But in recent years the Dorchester has lost its place among the elite of world hotels.

Regent said that it had sold the hotel to the Sultan because it had received an offer it could not refuse. Previous owners of the hotel include the Malpina family, which built the hotel in the 1930s and sold to a consortium of Middle Eastern interests in 1976.

The hotel made profits of about £2 million on turnover of £20 million in 1983 from its 286 rooms. It employs 600 staff. Room charges vary from £85 a night for a single room to £1,000 for the most expensive suites.

Fleet rebuffs United takeover bid

By Geoffrey Gibbs

Fleet Holdings, the Daily Express, Sunday Express and Daily Star newspaper publisher, yesterday delivered its expected rebuff to United Newspapers' proposed takeover bid for the company.

The snub came as the Department of Trade asked the Office of Fair Trading to look at Fleet's non-newspaper assets to consider whether a bid by United Newspapers would require a separate Monopolies Commission investigation from that which must be conducted into a transfer of ownership of the newspaper titles.

The Fleet directors were tied up in meetings again yesterday. But in a terse, three-paragraph statement they firmly rebuffed United's takeover aspirations. They said: "There have been no discussions between Fleet and United concerning a merger which, so far as Fleet is concerned, in the absence of any details from United, appears to have no merit."

The response gave an immediate £11 million boost to Fleet's stock market valuation, even though the start of any full-scale takeover battle with the Yorkshire Post, Punch and Ex-

change and Mail publisher is several months away.

Fleet shares jumped 15p to 286p, capitalising the business at over £250 million. United Newspapers shares fell 7p to 306p at which level the group is valued at £225 million.

United Newspapers, which already holds 20 per cent of Fleet's shares, served notice of its takeover intentions on Monday when it asked the Secretary for Trade and Industry, Mr Norman Tebbit, for consent "in principle" for transfer of the newspapers.

Under legislation governing the change of ownership of

newspaper titles, the Monopolies and Mergers Commission is required to make a report into the takeover proposal. The Commission has three months in which to carry out its investigation once a reference has been made by the Secretary of State.

But the DTI also wants the OFT to look at Fleet's substantial non-newspaper assets — including its profitable Morgan Grampian publishing business — in order to decide whether the MMC should be called in to investigate their takeover by United Newspapers as well.

NEWS IN BRIEF

A MERGER worth £250 million in the building supplies industry looked likely yesterday between UBM Group and Norcross, which failed with a £75 million takeover bid for UBM 16 months ago. Shares of both companies were suspended yesterday morning pending further news after a strong surge in the UBM share price from 139p to yesterday's 160p suspension price. Norcross shares were suspended at 169p.

Norcross holds a 36 per cent share stake in UBM following the unsuccessful takeover tussle in 1983, and has been free to bid again for UBM since last October. Neither side would comment on the possibility of a merger, but of Norcross selling its stake in UBM to a third party. Analysts suggested that the two companies were in fact hammering out peaceful merger terms.

THE FORMER speaker of the House of Commons, Lord Tonypandy, is to be chairman of the Commercial Bank of Wales. This follows the retirement of the bank's founder, Sir Julian Hodgson, who has reached the age of 80. CBW made a £1.35 million profit last year, when it also won a listing on the London Stock Exchange.

NATWEST yesterday raised \$400 million — upgraded from \$300 million because of a good investor response — on the international capital markets, which will significantly boost the bank's funds. After paying off an old issue of \$150 million, NatWest's free capital ratio will rise from 54.53 to 57.10 per cent.

BAe profits rise before share sale

By David Simpson

British Aerospace, where the Government is planning to sell its remaining 48 per cent holding in just over a month, experienced a surge in earnings of 46 per cent last year, the group reported yesterday.

After the hiccup in the British Airways privatisation, the Government is pulling out of BAe at the beginning of May, raising an estimated £350 million for the Exchequer. At the same time, BAe is to make a dual four rights issue to increase its own cash resources by at least £150 million.

Last year's jump in pre-tax profit to £120.2 million led to the BAe share price rising from 380p to 396p compared with the 150p a share which the government received from the disposal of an initial 51 per cent stake four years ago. It seems probable that the Government will sell the balance of its holding in BAe at a price of between 360p and 370p although the final valuation will not be decided under nearer the offer for sale deadline.

Next week, a "red herring" prospectus listing current year forecasts for the group will be published.

The Government's plans were immediately attacked in the light of the profit rise by Mr Chris Darke, a national officer of the white collar engineering union, TASS, who said: "It is a scandal that the Government wants to hand this highly profitable national asset over to private speculators."

"Their quick-profit mentality will mean that the less profitable, but vital, civil aircraft and space sectors will be starved of long-term investment," he claimed. BAe's 1984 profit, achieved on a modest increase in sales to £2,468 million, owed much to its earnings from military aircraft and guided weapons

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Inmos puts production workers on short-time

By Peter Large

Inmos, Britain's only mainstream maker of microchips, is cutting the hours of its 900 production workers at Newport, Wales, by about 20 per cent. Local union officials fear that some employees could lose £100 a month.

The decision is a response — much later than most of the company's American competitors — to the latest downturn in the chip industry's unending seesaw from feast to famine.

Plans to recruit 600 more people for Inmos's third factory being built nearby have been suspended, but the company said yesterday that there would be no redundancies in the UK. At Inmos's American plant in Colorado Springs, 86 people, 7 per cent of the production staff, have been sacked.

Inmos, launched by Labour's National Enterprise Board in 1978, but now owned by Thorn EMI, made a profit of £14.2 million last year but has fallen into loss in the first quarter of 1985.

Construction cover-up is alleged

By Andrew Cornelius

A series of astounding allegations about the events leading to the collapse of Mitchell Construction Holdings, which went into receivership 12 years ago, will be put to shareholders today.

The accusations are included in a 77-page document already circulated to major shareholders in the group. Mr David Morrell, the 70-year old chairman of Mitchell Construction, who prepared the document, has urged shareholders to keep the details secret because of the sensitive nature of the accusations.

He has written to 2,000 shareholders of the group, urging them to attend the extraordinary meeting he has

called this morning in the City.

Mr Morrell said yesterday that he believes shareholders may be entitled to "several million pounds" compensation if they pursue a case against those involved in the failure of the £12 million North Bank Power Station contract in Zambia, which led to the company's collapse.

Today's meeting has been prompted by a request from Coopers and Lybrand, the Mitchell Construction receivers, formally to wind up the company, which had sales of £50 million a year and employed 5,000 people before it collapsed.

Mitchell Construction's key assets were sold by liquidators

Cork Gully in 1973, as part of the winding-up process, with Tarmac picking up the rump of a business which was involved in several prestige power station, tunneling and London Underground civil engineering projects. Since then the receivers have discharged the liabilities of Mitchell Construction Holdings, the ultimate holding company for the business, leaving a shell company with assets of a few hundred pounds.

Mr Morrell, chairman of the holding company, is the sole remaining director. Two former directors, also in their 70s, have retired while a third has died.

In his letter to shareholders Mr Morrell says that the period since the company went

into receivership had been one of "great frustration as I first had to watch helplessly the summary dismantling of a very fine company and thereafter the wasteful dispersal of its assets."

He claims that the company was led into "a world of intrigue and deceit" when it took the Zambian power station project, which drew the company into "the very heart of the Rhodesian — Zambian struggle."

Today Mr Morrell will ask shareholders to put forward £10,000 to hire leading counsel to look at his report and accusations and the possibility of shareholders winning compensation. He will also take a vote on whether to wind up the company.

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- Encouraging results for development potential of Arbroath oil discovery 140 miles east of Aberdeen.
- Interests in 35 blocks on the UK Continental Shelf — an increase of nearly one third during the year.
- First corporate acquisition, announced in 1985, adding interests in 12 UK offshore blocks and 6 offshore the Netherlands.
- Exploration acreage obtained in 5 West European countries — France, Ireland, Denmark, Italy and the Netherlands.
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Hoechst discloses profits

By James Erlichman, Chemicals Correspondent

Hoechst, the biggest pharmaceutical company in the world, finally revealed yesterday how much profit it makes from drug sales to the National Health Service in Britain.

The German chemicals combine, which sells £2.2 billion worth of drugs worldwide, claimed yesterday that it earned a relatively meagre £680,000 on the £17 million worth of sales it made to the NHS in 1984.

The Government sets secret profit deals with each drug company operating in Britain. But Fisons, Britain's sixth largest drugs company, broke ranks earlier this month when it allowed its 1984 NHS profits of £12 million on sales of £35 million to be disclosed.

Hoechst's claimed profit margin of just 4 per cent contrasts sharply with the 34 per cent return Fisons apparently enjoyed from the NHS. The recent NHS cost-cutting measures imposed by the Government help explain both the disparity between Hoechst's and Fisons' profits and their new-found desire to admit their current earnings.

Most of the drugs Hoechst sells to the NHS are imported from Germany. This may allow the German combine artificially to raise its UK costs (and lower stated profits) by the practice of "transfer pricing." But Hoechst's real NHS profits have genuinely been cut because the government offers better incentives to "good citizen" companies like Fisons which do the bulk of their research and production in Britain.

Despite a cut in drug profits Hoechst's UK operating subsidiary still increased 1984 earnings from £4.4 million to £11.5 million after a much better performance from its heavily rationalised Berger paints business.

Reckitt & Colman tops £1 billion but US losses put dent in profits

By Mary Brasler

Reckitt & Colman passed the £1 billion mark for sales last year but is looking to its latest acquisition, Airwick, to breathe fresh air into profits. The foods and household products group will spend the next six months integrating Airwick, which it bought for £165 million in December, and expects profits to start flowing next year. Airwick take Reckitt into the top league of household products in the US, which is becoming an increasingly important market for the group, but not a profitable one.

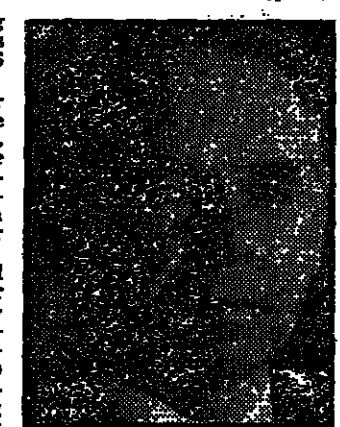
The US contributed sales of £243 million to a total of £1,124 million but a loss of £22 million to overall profits which rose by nearly 20 per cent to £106.4 million. Part of the American setback was due to the effects of a bad potato crop in Idaho which hit margins, but part was due to the

high cost of launching Reckitt's Swiss and Bully plus Blue products on to the US market.

Reckitt's chairman, Sir James Clemenson, says the marketing drive has paid off, with Bully plus Blue now the market leader in automatic lavatory cleaners and Swiss gaining an 18 per cent share of a market which grew by 40 per cent last year.

Reckitt, which was criticised for paying over the odds for Airwick, claimed yesterday that the acquisition would significantly improve its US performance. The new group trebles Reckitt's sales of cleaners to \$150 million, including brand leaders like Carpet Fresh, and brings in both manufacturing and marketing facilities.

"Airwick has size, presence and clout in the US trade. It means we now have critical mass there and we shall make



Sir James Clemenson

money in the US in 1985," says chief executive Mr John West. Reckitt sees substantial savings to overheads from com-

binning Airwick's manufacturing and selling operations with its own and plans to continue Airwick's programme of product launches. The acquisition will also double consumer product sales in Europe which reached £162 million last year.

Profits increased in the UK from £31.64 million to £36.97 million and rose on sales in Australia and Latin America boosted by acquisitions. South Africa, which is undergoing a substantial reorganisation to meet increased demand at the cost of £9 million last year, slipped back slightly to profits of £18.3 million.

Reckitt is still spending money in Norway to upgrade its food production plant and forecasted 14.5p from 12.4p. The shares ended 3p to 548p.

D-Day at the Bourse

Demonstrators protesting against redundancies at the French state telecommunications group Thomson-CSF invaded the Paris Bourse yesterday, delaying the opening and transforming the trading floor into a sea of banners.

The Thomson employees scrawled slogans in chalk across the stock price indicator boards, disconnected telephones, blew whistles and stood their ground as brokers were finally admitted to the building to start trading more than one hour late.

Waving banners proclaiming "No to the destruction of Thomson," the employees said that they were protesting against more than 600 planned redundancies by Thomson-CSF. No company spokesman was immediately available to comment. — Reuters

Piccadilly Hotel conversion is £6m dearer than forecast

By Geoffrey Gibbs

The task of converting London's Piccadilly Hotel to five-star standard is proving a more expensive and time-consuming business than new owners Arthur Bell had expected.

The whisky distillers, who acquired the 300 room hotel as part of the £27 million takeover of the Gleneagles hotels group in February last year, said yesterday that the cost of refurbishing the West End property had soared to £16 million from the £10.125 million projected by Gleneagles before the takeover.

The major redevelopment of the property — including the creation of a luxury leisure centre comprising squash courts, swimming pool and

gymnasium — is also taking longer than anticipated. Partly as a result of planning delays in building a glass-covered restaurant overlooking Piccadilly itself, the new hotel is not expected to open until the end of June — two months later than hoped for.

Despite the escalating development costs the Bell's chairman Mr Raymond Miguel, believes the hotel will prove a sound investment. "It will provide a high standard of accommodation and facilities in an area of central London which shows a continuing high level of demand for hotel accommodation," he commented yesterday. "When you see what London hotels are selling for I think it will be a very valuable asset for the group."

The Gleneagles Hotels division achieved an operating profit of just under £2.2 million during the first half of Bell's current financial year but is expected to make only a modest surplus during the six months to June while the Piccadilly is closed.

Thanks to the hotel contribution and a surplus of £284,000 from Wellington Importers, the US wine distribution business also acquired last year, group pre-tax profits rose from £19,058 million to £20,708 million during the half year. Mr Miguel expects full-year pre-tax results to be ahead of the £35.17 million achieved last time.

In difficult conditions Bell's mainstream whisky interests have managed to tot up only a tiny improvement in profits in the year to date.

Farmers get diet change warning

By Rosemary Collins, Agriculture Correspondent

THE SPEED with which the British population will change its diet in response to health warnings could catch the farming industry unawares, a new report warns. "Britain probably tops the league for the obvious achievement of people dying from heart disease," says Dr Verner Wheelock, director of Food Policy Research at Bradford University and one of the report's co-authors. "Farmers cannot change their products overnight, but if they do not act fast, supermarkets, that new and most powerful force in the market, will turn elsewhere for their supplies and British agriculture will follow our other great industries into decline."

Dr Wheelock and Dr Stephen Fallows point in their report to the US experience. There the highest rate of cardiovascular disease in the world has dropped in just a few years by around 30 per cent, to a position well down the heart disease death league table.

"People there right across the social spectrum changed their diet," Dr Wheelock says. "Here the COMA (Committee on Medical Aspects of Food Policy) report says that we must reduce our intake of saturated fats by 25 per cent, increase our fibre and cut back on salt and sugar."

This widely publicised recommendation will have important implications for the dairy and livestock industries. "I cannot blame farmers at all for selling the wrong product. It is the fault of the system."

But markets can change very fast and farming is less flexible than it used to be, with specialised systems having taken over from mixed farming," Dr Wheelock argues.

The Bradford University report suggests that changes should be made to farmers' payment systems so that they are given financial incentives which reflect a declining consumer demand for fat, in particular. At present, the grading systems for beef and sheep carcasses do not reflect consumer preferences for lean meat.

Implications of the COMA Report on Diet and Cardiovascular Disease, published by the Food Policy Research Unit of the University of Bradford, Price £4.50.

Bumper returns from Shell UK and Enterprise

By James Erlichman

The profits bonanza reaped in 1984 by the oil companies from the North Sea was highlighted again yesterday by the bumper earnings of Enterprise Oil and Shell UK.

Both companies enjoyed the double benefit of increased crude production as North Sea output soared to record levels, and the currency benefit of seeing their dollar-denominated oil revenues translated into weakened sterling.

Enterprise Oil, the oil producing arm of British Gas which was privatised last summer, announced an after-tax profit of £82.6 million. This is £15.4 million more than Enterprise forecast when it was sold off to private investors and more than double what the assets earned during the last eight months when they were controlled by British Gas.

While Opec was desperately attempting to curb production to prevent oil prices from falling, oil companies were given the nod in the North Sea by the UK Government to boost British output to a record 2.7 million barrels a day.

Typical was Enterprise's speedy development of the Hutton Field which helped the fledgling company boost its production by one third in a single year to 32,000 barrels a day.

The upstream picture was similar at Shell UK, the North Sea production and UK refining wing of the Anglo-Dutch

oil giant. Shell's own output of crude which is in tandem with Esso, rose 11 per cent in 1984 to 367,000 barrels a day. Together they produce a third of the oil extracted from the North Sea.

The volume gains and currency benefits enabled Shell to show a rise in after tax production earnings of £589 million from £517 million in 1983. The outgoing chairman, Mr John Naisbitt, expressed disappointment that the Chancellor had not offered incentives in the budget to boost exploration and production even further. But he said Mr Lawson was alive to the need for more perks in 1986 and he said Shell planned to spend £8 billion in UK exploration over the next decade.

Shell UK's total after tax earnings rose less sharply, however, from £334 million to £339 million. Although interest charges fell sharply and the loss-making chemicals division almost broke even, the company reported a £35 million loss (against a £28 million profit in 1983) from its downstream refining and marketing operations. Shell has £1 billion invested in the business of selling petrol and fuel oil in Britain and Mr Naisbitt defended the string of recent petrol price increases. "It makes no sense at all," he said, "to use those profits (from the North Sea) to offset losses elsewhere in the business," and he hinted at more rationalisation and petrol price rises this year.

Costs are climbing faster than revenue at TSW

By Dennis Barker

A sombre illustration of the present situation of ITV was given yesterday in the half yearly report of Television South West, when it was also announced that the sales director, Mr Harry Turner, had been appointed the new managing director.

In the six months to January 1 of this year, said the report, advertising revenue had increased by a respectable 8.4 per cent in the same period in the previous year. This compared with a rise of only 3.2 per cent in the ITV companies as a whole.

It proved, said the chairman, Sir Brian Bailey, that TSW was more than holding its own in an increasingly competitive market place. But Sir Brian gave an all too clear indication of the high

wire being walked by the ITV companies at the present time of limp advertising revenue and high payrolls when he added, "Over the same period, our costs have increased at a greater rate than revenue, and include significant components such as Channel 4 costs (up 18.8 per cent) which are beyond our control."

As a result, pre-tax profits for the half year amounted to £36,000 — a drop which had been "limited to 14.5 per cent on the corresponding figure last year." The earnings per share were 2.01p compared with 2.26p last year.

Sir Brian said that TSW programme budgets had not been reduced, his reflected the confidence of the board that increased levels of advertising growth would be resumed.

Preliminary announcement of results for 1984

British Aerospace

PUBLIC LIMITED COMPANY

†Results for 1984

	1984 £m	1983 £m
Turnover	2,468	2,300
Trading profit	166	112*
Launching costs written off	(51)	(43)
Net interest receivable	4	12
Profit before taxation	120	82
Profit after taxation	108	82
Earnings per share (net basis)	54.0p	41.1p
Dividends per share (net)	13.65p	9.10p

†Extract from preliminary announcement of results for 1984 based on audited accounts for the year to 31st December 1984.

*After charging £34m for redundancy and reorganisation costs in 1983.



The world looks up to
British Aerospace

IMI 1984 Results

Year ended 31 December 1983 £m	Year ended 31 December 1984 £m
676.3	737.9
41.6	52.6
4.7	6.1
(14.7)	(13.6)
31.6	45.1
(11.7)	(15.4)
19.4	28.9
(10.3)	(3.1)
10.8	12.1
7.2p	10.7p

Notes

1. Turnover and pre-tax profits were respectively 9% and 43% up on last year's figures. UK sales at £385 million were 2% higher (10% after taking disposals into account). Overseas sales amounted to 48% of total sales, with exports from the UK at £115 million up by 20% and sales by overseas companies at £239 million up by 17%.

The analysis of turnover and profit on ordinary activities before taxation by class of business is as follows:-

1983		1984	
Turnover	Profit	Turnover	Profit
£m	£m	£m	£m
155	7.5	165	6.5
79	2.5	75	4.4
98	9.8	118	13.0
62	4.9	79	9.3
36	4.1	38	3.9
70	2.6	79	6.5
243	2.6	249	4.5
743	34.0	804	48.2
(67)	(2.4)	(66)	(3.1)
676	31.6	738	45.1

2. Rationalisation and reorganisation costs of £3.4 million (1983: £5.1m) have been charged against profit on ordinary activities.

3. Provision has been made for the payment of a bonus of £1.3 million (1983: £0.8m) to employees participating in the IMI employees profit-sharing scheme.

4. Extraordinary items consists of rationalisation and other costs of £1.7 million (after tax relief) and a provision for deferred tax relating to prior years amounting to £1.4 million.

Dividends

The Directors recommend a final dividend of 2.5p per Ordinary Share, payable on 24 May 1985 to shareholders on the Register at the close of business on 26 April 1985, which will absorb £6.7 million (1983: £6.7m). Together with the interim dividend of 2.0p per share paid on 22 October 1984, this makes a total of 4.5p per share (1983: 4.0p per share).

The 1984 figures have been audited from the audited group accounts for the year which will be posted to shareholders on 23 April. The figures for 1983 have been audited from audited accounts for that year which have been delivered to the Registrar of Companies.

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Today a cross-section of Portugal's top politicians, bankers and industrialists will be wine and dined aboard the royal yacht Britannia by the British Overseas Trade Board. It is part of an attempt to restore the balance of trading relations with our oldest ally before she joins the EEC at the end of this year. JOHN HOOPER in Lisbon looks at what went wrong with a special relationship and how it might be put right.

Cheap wine, cheap labour

IF ANYONE deserved a trip on the royal yacht, then it is the men and women who will be sipping the British Overseas Trade Board's champagne later today. There are two reasons why the board has gone to such lengths to woo them and both are direct results of their achievements.

One is that, after years of haggard bargaining, Portugal is at last poised to join the Common Market thus providing the British with access to a market which up to now has been screened by import licensing. The other is that—more because of Portuguese industrialism than British inactivity—a huge imbalance has developed in Anglo-Portuguese trade. In 1982, Britain had a trading surplus with Portugal of £51 million. By last year this had been transformed into a deficit of more than a quarter of a billion pounds. That is no small beer.

The main reason for this is that Portuguese sales to Britain have shot up in the past two years from £360 million to £645 million. There is nothing fluky about it. The increase has taken place across the entire gamut of Portuguese exports. It is a reflection of the concerted effort being made by the Lisbon Government to wipe out the balance of payment deficit. This has been the Achilles' heel of the Portuguese economy ever since the 1974 revolution.

The mood of Portugal today is rather similar to that of Britain under Wilson—the days of "export or die"—and so far, it has produced spectacular results. Portugal's current account deficit was slashed from £3.2 billion in 1982 to £1.7 billion in 1983 and provisional figures for last year show a further drop of almost 60 per cent. This is a better performance than the IMF expected or requested.

The main customers for Portuguese goods have been the Americans and the Europeans, and among the latter the British in particular. You need look no further than the wine shelves in the nearest supermarket for the evidence.

Instead of rising to meet the Portuguese challenge, British exports have actually fallen over the past couple of years from £429 million to £386 million. Last year, the United Kingdom was one of those two West European



The Queen with Portugal's President Balthazar in Lisbon yesterday

countries whose sales to Portugal declined.

To some extent, of course, this is simply the other side of the same coin—as well as trying to boost exports, the Portuguese are doing what they can to restrict imports. But it also reflects a decline in Britain's relative importance within the Portuguese market—a decline which has been going on since the seventies.

Between 1978 and 1984, the UK's share fell steadily from 10.1 per cent to 6.3 per cent and in 1982 Britain was edged out of third place by the French.

There are various reasons. One is that Britain has traditionally been involved above all in the export of capital goods and it is precisely these sectors in which those goods find their customers that have been in decline in recent years. Shipbuilding is a prime example. That is not the whole story, however. Portugal with its lumbering bureaucracy has never been an easy market, and never less so than in recent years when funds have been short and non-cash transactions increasingly popular.

"The British have not shown the same tenacity and imagination as some of their counterparts," said one Whitehall official.

It is also a truism that trade follows investment and recently, although investment in tourism has continued, British businesses have been less enthusiastic about putting their money in to Portuguese industry than either the French or the Germans. For a greater extent than their European counterparts,

parts, it seems, the British were put off by the revolution and its aftermath.

"British companies seemed to be particularly nervous about it," says Mr. Ronald Price, of the Portuguese Chamber of Commerce and Industry in the UK. "It is only now that they're seeing a period of established, middle-of-the-road democracy that they're gaining confidence."

Figures available in Lisbon suggest that the revival of interest started as far back as 1981, but that it has yet to have a significant impact on the trade deficit between the two countries. That, then, is why and how the imbalance developed. But how can it be rectified?

As far as straightforward selling is concerned, Britain's performance will depend on the extent to which her businesses can help the Portuguese to achieve their prime objective which is to close her trade gap. Much of Portugal's imports, bill is accounted for by food and energy. Burdened with an inefficient agricultural and fishing sector, Portugal is a net importer of food.

Since the revolution and its attendant disruption coincided almost exactly with the first Opec price rises, Portugal was woefully slow in reacting to the energy crisis and is still dependent on oil from overseas for almost two-thirds of her primary fuel requirement. The Government's energy strategy envisages coal providing 40 per cent within the next 10 to 15 years and Britain's large coal reserves and her extensive mining knowledge put her in

a particularly advantageous position not only to sell coal but also to sell the means with which Portugal can increase domestic output.

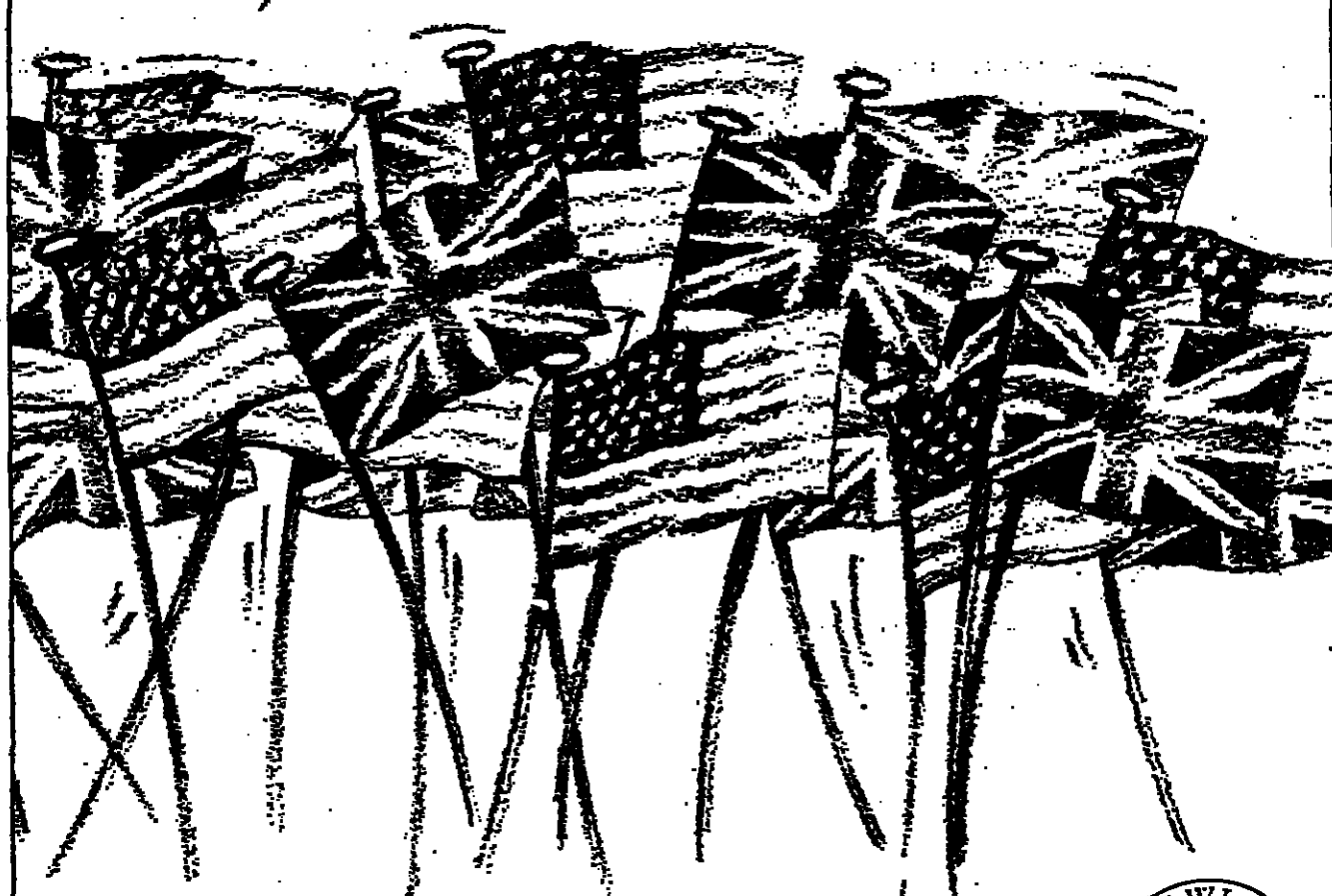
The Portuguese are well aware moreover that their traditional exports, such as wine, cork and textiles can only take them so far and that if they are to keep up the momentum of sales they will need to provide quality manufactured goods. This in turn will require much higher level of technical sophistication, and they are interested not only in acquiring production line technology but also in putting computers in to the classroom. Britain more than any other nation has the experience to help them do so.

Ultimately, however, it is unlikely that Britain will be able to redress the balance of her trade with Portugal unless she can sustain her level of investment. Here, a third criterion must be taken into account, for in addition to wanting investment that will help to reduce her trade deficit and increase her technological know-how, Portugal is looking for jobs. Although not as chronic as in neighbouring Spain, unemployment is running at 12 per cent.

"What I am after," says Mr. Jose Viana Baptista, chairman of the Foreign Investment Institute, "is not big white elephants, but the small, fast-breeding rabbit. Back in the sixties, it was well thought of to go ahead with big entrepreneurial projects like petrochemical works, steel plants, shipyards, and so on. All those activities are now in deep crisis throughout Europe. Instead, we need projects which will pass on orders to sub-contractors who will then have to employ and invest more."

For the foreign investors there may also be an extra price to pay in terms of collaboration. Texas Instruments, for example, was only allowed to repatriate profits on condition that it entered into a joint project with the University of Oporto. But, with average wages still by far the lowest in Europe at only £1.63 an hour, the incentives are considerable too. "Maybe," says Mr. Viana Baptista, "British industry has no opportunity to prove its competitiveness in the Portuguese markets, but in other external markets as well."

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82 5.305

Earnings per share (pence)

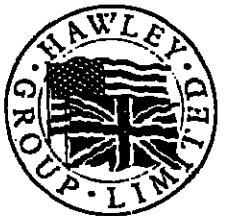
84 11.4 (+78%)
83 6.4 (+42%)
82 4.5

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

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PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

GENERAL

TRADES UNION CONGRESS

A vacancy exists as
**RESEARCH AND
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**
FOR THE TUC SOUTH-EAST REGIONAL COUNCIL
BASED IN LONDON

The scope of the work includes the preparation of documents, committee administration and representation of the TUC at Trade Union and other meetings.

Applications are invited from persons with a commitment to Trade Unionism and relevant experience and/or qualifications.

Salary is on the scale which starts at £10,326-14,135.62.

If you are interested in this position, please write, quoting reference S2R TUC (1) for an application form and further details to:

The General Secretary,
Trades Union Congress,
Congress House,
Great Russell Street,
London WC1B 3LS.

The TUC is an equal opportunities employer.

Sefton Community Resource Action Programme PROJECT 94

Project 94 is a new Neighbourhood Community Training Programme which is funded substantially by the Sefton Council. It aims through the provision of training to help individuals in the community to improve their skills and to help them to find employment. The programme is open to all residents of Sefton and is particularly aimed at those who are unemployed and who are in need of training. The programme is run by the Sefton Community Resource Action Programme and is based at the Sefton Community Centre, 100-102, Victoria Road, Sefton, Merseyside L35 9JF. For an application form and further details, contact the Sefton Community Resource Action Programme on 051 627 1000.

Scheme Co-ordinator

£10,700 per annum.
Initial contract for 3 months; with the community committee as well as the Sefton Council. The successful candidate will be responsible for the overall management of the project, including the recruitment and training of staff, the development of the project, and the provision of training to individuals in the community. The successful candidate will also be responsible for the financial management of the project and for the provision of a regular report to the Sefton Council. Applications should be sent to the Sefton Community Resource Action Programme, 100-102, Victoria Road, Sefton, Merseyside L35 9JF. For an application form and further details, contact the Sefton Community Resource Action Programme on 051 627 1000.

SCRAP PROJECT 94

£10,700 per annum.
The Sefton Council is seeking a person to co-ordinate the SCRAP Project 94, which is a new Neighbourhood Community Training Programme. The successful candidate will be responsible for the overall management of the project, including the recruitment and training of staff, the development of the project, and the provision of training to individuals in the community. The successful candidate will also be responsible for the financial management of the project and for the provision of a regular report to the Sefton Council. Applications should be sent to the Sefton Community Resource Action Programme, 100-102, Victoria Road, Sefton, Merseyside L35 9JF. For an application form and further details, contact the Sefton Community Resource Action Programme on 051 627 1000.

Closing date for applications 12th April.

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

National Park and Countryside Department

COUNTRYSIDE WARDEN

Fleesay Woods Country Park

Salary 3-5, £5,522-£9,243
(plus 15 per cent in lieu of overtime)

A full-time warden is needed for this Country Park (35 hectares) located near Newcastle.

Candidates must be qualified to the level of a degree or equivalent and have a minimum of 5 years' experience in a similar post. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day management of the park, including the maintenance of the park, the provision of information to visitors, and the provision of a regular report to the Council. Applications should be sent to the Northumberland County Council, 100-102, Victoria Road, Sefton, Merseyside L35 9JF. For an application form and further details, contact the Northumberland County Council on 051 627 1000.

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MERSEYSIDE PROBATION SERVICE

INFORMATION OFFICER

RESEARCH AND INFORMATION UNIT, RAINFOOD HALL,
CRANK, ST HELENS

Application is invited from persons experienced in working with information systems. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day management of the unit, including the maintenance of the unit, the provision of information to visitors, and the provision of a regular report to the Council. Applications should be sent to the Merseyside Probation Service, 100-102, Victoria Road, Sefton, Merseyside L35 9JF. For an application form and further details, contact the Merseyside Probation Service on 051 627 1000.

The main tasks of the Information Officer will be:

to identify the Service's information needs and to develop a strategy to meet these needs;

to develop the Service's library facilities;

to prepare and publish periodical information bulletins.

Computer experience is desirable but not essential. Knowledge of the Probation Service would be an advantage.

Further details are available from Mr. C. J. O'Connell, Research and Information Unit, Rainford Hall, Crank, St Helens, Merseyside, L35 9JF. For an application form and further details, contact Mr. C. J. O'Connell on 051 627 1000.

Apply by letter to The Assistant Administrative Officer (Personnel), Merseyside Probation Service, Rainford Hall, Crank, St Helens, Merseyside, L35 9JF. For an application form and further details, contact the Merseyside Probation Service on 051 627 1000.

The Merseyside Probation Service has declared itself an equal opportunities employer.

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

DIRECTORATE OF HOUSING

SUPPLIES OFFICER

£12,567-£12,681

If you wish to make a positive contribution to the overall effective and efficient performance of our housing section, you may be interested in this post responsible for the purchasing, supervising and co-ordinating the various stores to meet the needs of the housing section.

More specifically the duties will involve maintenance of adequate stocks and ordering of materials, supervision of the purchasing and delivery of materials, and the implementation of computer systems.

Applicants must have the ability to initiate ideas to improve systems and procedures, to be able to work with a team, and to be able to work with a minimum of supervision.

This advertisement appears with the agreement of the London Borough of Tower Hamlets.

Applicants are considered on the basis of their suitability for the post, regardless of sex, racial origin, marital status, disability or age.

Application forms and further details from Personnel Services, Tower Hamlets, London E20 1JX, or telephone 051 627 1000. Closing date 15th April 1985.

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Frank Keating sees another English defeat

Javed is too hot to handle



KEATING IN THE DESERT

ENGLAND came bottom of the pile in the four-nation cricket competition on the banks of the Persian Gulf at Sharjah yesterday. Who are the missionaries now? Pakistan beat them in the third place play-off by 43 runs — and it could have been worse.

Group ticketing arrangements as well as good manners mean that England are staying to take part in this weekend's celebrations after Friday's final in which Australia play India, the "world champions".

Zaibistan, put in, made 175 for seven in their 50 overs thanks to a knowing and well-paced innings of 71 by their hitherto beleaguered captain, Javed Miandad. England's already weak side was further strained when Randall's tumour bug made him cry off before the start — indeed there would have been another harrowing one-day tale to despatch had not the young Northamptonshire player, Bailey, so creditably taken Randall's place for his first representative game.

Bailey strode in at 48 for three — and had barely taken guard when it was 49 for four but he nursed the tail with such growing confidence to carry his bat right through to England's 132 all-out. He started nervously, though he seems the more he is used to the game. Each of his 41 runs was progressively made more boldly.

He is a 21-year-old six-footer with a lot of middle to his bat and he looks to put a heartily flamboyant signature to the final flourish of his follow-through. He also bowls a tidy off-break.

Northamptonshire found him in that venerable and most senior of Minor Counties, Taunton. Blood, blow-dried, cropped and wide-shouldered and tapering trunk, he looks as if he could have been a Stoke City No 5 had he the inclination.

After the precarious dash of his innings at Northampton against the West Indians, Clive Lloyd spent the rest of last summer telling everyone to go and watch Bailey. Only Lamb and Gatting, he reckoned, had played a better knock against them.

May and October, England's selectors took the hint — though one hopes they know their business. The forthcoming county slogs is going to be difficult for Bailey. The list of seemingly uncomplicated young batsmen whose technique is discovered by the wily old circuit backs in their second season is wickedly long.

Yesterday it was Javed who played the best county one-day innings. He had a look, then took his time to accelerate. When he arrived at 43 for two, Ellison and, especially, Pringle had bowled well enough and the spinners were itching to get on.

The temperature was in the mid-thirties, but off the Gulf, zapped in a crisp, flag-fluttering breeze. The new-laid pitch was slow but a square turner if you could work it.

Gifford, England's hale-faced veteran honorary captain bowed best. Well, he's had far more experience than young Pocock. The boy, Edmonds, as you might imagine, went at the pitch too keenly after all his patience on the fat plains of India. It looked too gingerly good to him and he had to bow to the long-running old Archer-extra from Warwickshire, who guilefully poked out at



CAPTAIN'S CHARGE... Javed's broadside shoots down the Sharjah light brigade

the middle of the Pakistan innings to 125 for six. But from there no-one could stop Javed's equally knowing sprint.

It was a beastly score while Fowler was still in. Or if Robinson had started grooving his dubs and dabs and turning them into something more solid. Fowler rode his luck as ever, but it didn't hold. Mason was disappointed and though Wells looked briefly intent his entry as England's No 4 by no means tapped any optimism's juices.

While time and target was intact, Pringle just might have been a worthy or even winning partner for Bailey, but he was betrayed by an unplayably rotten shooter. The rest, however, if not a mania certainty of doom.

Essex, the County and Sunday League champions, made a record profit of £83,215 last season. The county have re-appointed county captain as captain with Graham Gooch vice-captain.

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SHARJAH SCOREBOARD

PAKISTAN	ENGLAND
Javed Miandad 71	J. Gifford 43
Imran Khan 48	P. Pringle 38
Salim Malik 38	D. Ellison 38
Asif Ali 38	M. Wells 38
Abdul Qadir 38	G. Gooch 38
Wasim Akram 38	R. Mason 38
Yasir Hameed 38	C. Pringle 38
Shaukat Ali 38	S. Pringle 38
Imran Khan 38	M. Wells 38
Salim Malik 38	D. Ellison 38
Asif Ali 38	M. Wells 38
Abdul Qadir 38	G. Gooch 38
Wasim Akram 38	R. Mason 38
Yasir Hameed 38	C. Pringle 38
Shaukat Ali 38	S. Pringle 38

Seeing soccer in a Green light

GEORFFREY GREEN, best remembered — though certainly not solely — as soccer correspondent of The Times, has written his autobiography. He has titled it Pardon Me For Lying (Allen & Unwin: £9.95) though he is not apologetic about the matter: nor should he be, too many people gratefully remember his felicitous for that. He acknowledges Judy Holiday for the title.

Sitting in for him at The Times in the winter of 1982-83 was an unusual experience. With characteristic intuition, he chose those many weeks when snow stopped all football to hang himself out to dry. On the first Friday night, the master leucum was seated at a desk carved, in happily careless calligraphy, "GEORFFREY GREEN FOOTBALL TENNIS WHISKY".

Bringing over a typewriter, he began to preview the matches which would be snowed off the next day, only to be tapped on the shoulder by a resident with the words "Do you know, sir, that is the first time a typewriter has ever been used on that desk?"

Geoffrey Green: traditionalist of course, but modern in his approach to the game. He is as football: apparently careless but utterly reliable; romantic yet pragmatic; argumentative yet gently sympathetic; sardonic yet sympathetic; a mass of unquarrelsome contradictions; above all, infallibly convivial. Such is Geoffrey Green, chained to a rocking chair, looking back at life, counting my blessings and now trying to recover from a seventh major operation.

Going to Shrewsbury at 14, he made such an early impression as a soccer player against 17- and 18-year-olds, given his house colours, with all the accompanying legends — "only nine weeks of

John Arlott (left) on the newly published autobiography of his old colleague and friend, Geoffrey Green

fagging in my first term instead of the statutory two years."

Outstanding at cricket, Eton fives and soccer, he went on, after a family financial hiccup, to win a Cambridge Blue. Indeed, sound critics rated him one of the best centre-half-backs — amateur or professional — in this country. He went automatically into the strong Corinthian Casuals side of the mid-thirties, only to suffer a knee injury aggravated by such appallingly incompetent treatment from a Cambridge doctor that he was never again able to take part in serious sport.

It did not prevent him from living University, musical (jazz), and social life very fully indeed. "What did I do? I became a schoolmaster again. Live now; pay later. It was the credit card syndrome... Before the war broke out I had got my toe in the door of The Times."

Although he could never be fit to fly, there followed service in the RAF: "I knew I was going to die, but I never downed I recognised I was just

a penguin, earth-bound."

Returning to The Times he was given a desk in the sports-room, £8 a week, and the opportunity to become their well-known, albeit anonymous, football correspondent.

He assesses people like a connoisseur, but he is at his engaging best when he writes on soccer in the chapters Great Players of Instinct and Teams Touched by Angels. He searches, analyses, feels with and for his eight great footballers, and leaves none of them without a Greenian.

Dixie Dean's "ability to find the net in all conditions was remarkable, especially in times when a leather ball doubled its weight in mud and rain — a veritable cannonball, unlike its modern synthetic counterpart. On May 5, 1928, Dean set up a scoring record that still stands today — 60 goals in a season."

George Best would "drop a penny piece on the toe of his shoe, then flick it up into his top breast pocket. He never failed... He

always stopped at the bar — on the edge of the penalty area, so to speak."

Stanley Matthews "would draw an opponent in to him like a magnet, draw him in like a bull to his cape and sword." Of Bobby Charlton: "His thinning hair would stream in the wind as he moved like a ship in full sail. There was an elemental explosive quality about him, jinking, changing feet and accelerating, he was gone before the enemy knew it."

Tom Finney was "as quick as a snail, dodging, swerving and dribbling." Jimmy Greaves' weapon was "the rapier rather than the broadsword. When he slipped the ball into goal, it was like some elegant, the door of a Rolls Royce."

"Physically powerful of hip and thigh, squat yet with all the negrooid, feline, graceful speed born of liquid loins and joints and spring heels." Alfredo di Stefano "had a swift short stride with a high-stepping knee action and he moved lightly with bouts of intense acceleration like a somewhat stepping on burning coals or broken glass. He possessed peripheral vision; his eyes darted here and there hungrily as his mind measured and calculated every situation."

Sadly he concludes: "Football has put itself into the red through its own fault, the clubs in the main being guided by those having little or no feel for the game. Ever since the winning of the World Cup in 1966, British — English — football has taken on a garish and medicinal."

Elsewhere, especially when writing with full happiness about his daughter Ti, the man emerges who would sometimes lean across to me, half grinning, half serious, with a lift of the index finger, state beyond all question: "Every day is Christmas Day."

David Davies reports from Jacksonville

Big brother calls the shots



GOLF

The Brothers Ballesteros began their attack on two of the most important rules in golf. Severiano, of course, will be playing the shots this week in the Tournament Players' Championship and in the first week of the US Masters. But even then, the first time will be brother Manuel, himself a successful professional.

Manuel, 36, travelled all day Monday from Santander to Jacksonville to be with his youngest brother, Seve, 28. He then snatched six sleep before getting out to prepare for Seve's 8.30 am start in yesterday's round.

"He is a hard man," said Manuel, during an hour-long taxi ride to the Jacksonville airport and the beach area where the mag-

nificent Tournament Players Club at Sawgrass is situated. But it is right, I asked Seve if it could add for the course at close quarters. But he told me that if I caddy there I must practice and caddy here too. He is always the perfectionist."

Ballesteros' junior has spent the week after his win in New Orleans dealing with problems arising from the broken partnership with his manager Ed Barner. He thus missed the lucrative one million dollar Panasonic event in Las Vegas. The prize money this week however, is enormous.

It is the prestige however which is more important and that in the next three weeks, cannot be counted in dollars. Manuel, who in 1983 won the European Tour even at the Timber Open in Berlin is confident he can help his younger brother. Al-

though older brother Baldomero has occasionally carried the clubs, Manuel, who was responsible for Seve's early golfing education, says: "No one knows his game better than I do. I know as a player when to answer him and when to stay silent. With Seve that is very important."

At least two of Europe's leading caddies would vouch for that, for the young maestro can be a demanding task master. Peter Coleman, over here with Bernhard Langer, tells how Seve used to count the practice balls — all given to him by a manufacturer. If any were missing at the end of a session, he would make a deduction from his caddy's wages.

Coleman got over that one though. Before practice he would remove six balls from the bag when Seve wasn't looking, and then top up as required at the end.

SPEEDWAY

Wigg fined and banned

Simon Wigg, England's only world finalist last year, and former England captain Malcolm Simmonds have been banned from the three leading world championship events. They were also fined £1,000 each after being found guilty of "conduct prejudicial to speedway".

Kings Lynn rider Mark Courtney was banned from British speedway until May 1, fined £250 and must pay £200 costs for the same offence, but Ipswich's John Louis was cleared.

The verdicts came after a two-day Speedway Control Board inquiry in London which however cleared the three riders of bribery charges during world championship rounds.

All three can lodge appeals within the next 15 days.

Scudamore gets ride on Corbiere

DRACING

Harry Heymer

In the best interests of Corbiere and his thousands of followers, Ben de Ham, who partnered Jenny Pitman's ten-year-old to victory in 1983 and was third on his last year, will be on board for the double. Allen, and, all being well, he will attempt at Aintree on Saturday.

He was kicked on the leg when unsaddling a horse at Wolverhampton eleven days ago and after a visit to the physiotherapist in Swindon earlier this week, he agreed it would be best for everyone if he stood down.

Jenny Pitman said, "It's very sad for Ben but in the gruelling race like the National, there is no point in having the horse 110 per cent fit on the day if the jockey is only 65 per cent fit."

De Ham's place will be taken by Peter Scudamore, who rode a superb race on Corbiere at Cheltenham ten days ago, his first win since his memorable performance two years ago.

Another unlucky jockey is Neale Doughty, who was also hoping to attempt the double on last year's winner, Halo Dandy. As I said earlier in the week, it was touch and go whether or not he would be

passed fit by Dr Allen and in London yesterday he received the worst possible news. Dr Allen ruled him unfit and he will not be permitted to ride for at least another 14 days.

Richard Dunwoody, who was to ride the strongly fancied West Tip, also had to pass a fitness test yesterday before riding at Sandown. Fortunately for all concerned, Dunwoody was third on his last year, will be given the all clear by Dr Allen, and, all being well, he will attempt at Aintree on Saturday.

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of the industry the Board hope to achieve a 60-40 ratio between Flat and National Hunt racing. National Hunt racing will get an increase of 14.4 per cent (£273,400), while the increase to the Flat will be 5.56 per cent (£421,000).

Good news from British Rail. Capitalists' holders will be able to travel free from their local station to Kempton Park on Easter Monday, April 8, and get half price admission to the Tattersalls enclosure. This novel and welcome idea is open to anyone who holds a BR/LRT Capitalcard valid at least to April 9, irrespective of the zones covered by the card.

Red Rum, the only horse to win the Grand National three times, will be on view at Cora's betting shop on Newport Place, London, W2 on Friday to celebrate the shop's refurbishment. Red Rum will stay overnight at the Royal Artillery Barracks before making his appearance and afterwards will travel back to the scene of his triumphs to be on parade before the big race.

There is little to catch the imagination at today's flat meetings at Catterick but after Perrett, Never Tamper (C), his outing at Doncaster last Thursday, when he ran a really good race for over a mile, he may pay to take a chance on the Yarm Handicap.

Declared runners with latest riding plans: Corbiere (P. Oakprince (—), Rockin Berry (—),

Drumlargan (J. Francombe), Straight Accord (S. Shilston), Greasepaint (T. Carmody), Lucky Vane (J. Burke), Halo Dandy (N. Doughty), Bromley Bank (A. J. Wilson), Fethard Friend (P. Barton), Classified (P. Croucher), Tactry (A. Stringer), Last Suspect (H. Davies), Scott Lane (C. Smith), West Tip (R. Dunwoody).

Fortina's Express (R. Lamb), Kumbi (K. Doonan), Dailmore (P. Leech), Kusso (Mr. S. Sherrard), Duffie (A. McGiffie), Superintend (A. Stronge), Imperial Black (C. Hawkins), Shady Deal (R. Rowe), Poyntz Pass (M. Meagher), Tubertelly (—), The Drunken Duck (D. Coakley), Talon (A. Webber), Ona-fromise (—), Knockabout (K. F. O'Brien).

Blackburn Prince (B. Reill), Bill of Slane (S. Smith), Royal Appointment (F. Gill), Solihull Sport (S. his appearance and afterwards will travel back to the scene of his triumphs to be on parade before the big race.

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CATTERICK

DRAW ADVANTAGE: LOW number best to go to 71

* DENOTES BLINDERS GOING: Good to soft

2 15-SPRINGTIME APPRENTICE HANDICAP: 71: 5786 (11 runners).

(1) 00000-0-1 OYSTON (C/O) (J. Berry) 5-13-13... J. Carrill (7)
(2) 00000-0-1 OYSTON (C/O) (J. Berry) 5-13-13... J. Carrill (7)
(3) 00000-0-1 OYSTON (C/O) (J. Berry) 5-13-13... J. Carrill (7)
(4) 00000-0-1 OYSTON (C/O) (J. Berry) 5-13-13... J. Carrill (7)
(5) 00000-0-1 OYSTON (C/O) (J. Berry) 5-13-13... J. Carrill (7)
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(9) 00000-0-1 OYSTON (C/O) (J. Berry) 5-13-13... J. Carrill (7)
(10) 00000-0-1 OYSTON (C/O) (J. Berry) 5-13-13... J. Carrill (7)

8 Late Run, 10-11-12-13-14-15-16-17-18-19-20-21-22-23-24-25-26-27-28-29-30-31-32-33-34-35-36-37-38-39-40-41-42-43-44-45-46-47-48-49-50-51-52-53-54-55-56-57-58-59-60-61-62-63-64-65-66-67-68-69-70-71-72-73-74-75-76-77-78-79-80-81-82-83-84-85-86-87-88-89-90-91-92-93-94-95-96-97-98-99-100-101-102-103-104-105-106-107-108-109-110-111-112-113-114-115-116-117-118-119-120-121-122-123-124-125-126-127-128-129-130-131-132-133-134-135-136-137-138-139-140-141-142-143-144-145-146-147-148-149-150-151-152-153-154-155-156-157-158-159-160-161-162-163-164-165-166-167-168-169-170-171-172-173-174-175-176-177-178-179-180-181-182-183-184-185-186-187-188-189-190-191-192-193-194-195-196-197-198-199-200-201-202-203-204-205-206-207-208-209-210-211-212-213-214-215-216-217-218-219-220-221-222-223-224-225-226-227-228-229-230-231-232-233-234-235-236-237-238-239-240-241-242-243-244-245-246-247-248-249-250-251-252-253-254-255-256-257-258-259-260-261-262-263-264-265-266-267-268-269-270-271-272-273-274-275-276-277-278-279-280-281-282-283-284-285-286-287-288-289-290-291-292-293-294-295-296-297-298-299-300-301-302-303-304-305-306-307-308-309-310-311-312-313-314-315-316-317-318-319-320-321-322-323-324-325-326-327-328-329-330-331-332-333-334-335-336-337-338-339-340-341-342-343-344-345-346-347-348-349-350-351-352-353-354-355-356-357-358-359-360-361-362-363-364-365-366-367-368-369-370-371-372-373-374-375-376-377-378-379-380-381-382-383-384-385-386-387-388-389-390-391-392-393-394-395-396-397-398-399-400-401-402-403-404-405-406-407-408-409-410-411-412-413-414-415-416-417-418-419-420-421-422-423-424-425-426-427-428-429-430-431-432-433-434-435-436-437-438-439-440-441-442-443-444-445-446-447-448-449-450-451-452-453-454-455-456-457-458-459-460-461-462-463-464-465-466-467-468-469-470-471-472-473-474-475-476-477-478-479-480-481-482-483-484-485-486-487-488-489-490-491-492-493-494-495-496-497-498-499-500-501-502-503-504-505-506-507-508-509-510-511-512-513-514-515-516-517-518-519-520-521-522-523-524-525-526-527-528-529-530-531-532-533-534-535-536-537-538-539-540-541-542-543-544-545-546-547-548-549-550-551-552-553-554-555-556-557-558-559-560-561-562-563-564-565-566-567-568-569-570-571-572-573-574-575-576-577-578-579-580-581-582-583-584-585-586-587-588-589-590-591-592-593-594-595-596-597-598-599-600-601-602-603-604-605-606-607-608-609-610-611-612-613-614-615-616-617-618-619-620-621-622-623-624-625-626-627-628-629-630-631-632-633-634-635-636-637-638-639-640-641-642-643-644-645-646-647-648-649-650-651-652-653-654-655-656-657-658-659-660-661-662-663-664-665-666-667-668-669-670-671-672-673-674-675-676-677-678-679-680-681-682-683-684-685-686-687-688-689-690-691-692-693-694-695-696-697-698-699-700-701-702-703-704-705-706-707-708-709-710-711-712-713-714-715-716-717-718-719-720-721-722-723-724-725-726-727-728-729-730-731-732-733-734-735-736-737-738-739-740-741-742-743-744-745-746-747-748-749-750-751-752-753-754-755-756-757-758-759-760-761-762-763-764-765-766-767-768-769-770-771-772-773-774-775-776-777-778-779-780-781-782-783-784-785-786-787-788-789-790-791-792-793-794-795-796-797-798-799-800-801-802-803-804-805-806-807-808-809-810-811-812-813-814-815-816-817-818-819-820-821-822-823-824-825-826-827-828-829-830-831-832-833-834-835-836-837-838-839-840-841-842-843-844-845-846-847-848-849-850-851-852-853-854-855-856-857-858-859-860-861-862-863-864-865-866-867-868-869-870-871-872-873-874-875-876-877-878-879-880-881-882-883-884-885-886-887-888-889-890-891-892-893-894-895-896-897-898-899-900-901-902-903-904-905-906-907-908-909-910-911-912-913-914-915-916-917-918-919-920-921-922-923-924-925-926-927-928-929-930-931-932-933-934-935-936-937-938-939-940-941-942-943-944-945-946-947-9

Labour group says mutual respect no longer exists

Chief constable urged to resign in dispute over Washington trip

By Alan Dunn

The chief constable of Merseyside, Mr Kenneth Oxford, was asked yesterday to consider resigning in the latest round of a continuing dispute with his Labour-led county police committee.

But after a committee meeting called to consider his failure to tell the committee of a trip he made last week to an anti-terrorism conference in Washington, he said: "I have every Christian virtue but resignation."

At the closed meeting, the Labour group said that while his apology to the committee was noted, "the central degree of confidence and mutual respect between the authority and the chief constable appears no longer to exist." Labour asked Mr Oxford, aged 50, to consider resigning in the interest of the efficiency of the force. The committee will meet in four weeks to consider the matter again.

Labour anger follows Mr Oxford's failure to attend a financially important committee meeting last week. He sent apologies through his deputy, Mr John Burrow, and this was the first Labour knew of his absence. He is understood to have admitted yesterday that it was a mistake in judgment not to have told them.

After yesterday's meeting, Mr Oxford refused to go into details of his trip to the United States, but he said it was concerned with countering terrorism.

"I thought I gave a very detailed explanation, and I will have to consider the resolution," he said. "But it would be quite injudicious at this stage for me to give a public explanation."

The 21-man committee was split, four magistrates joining three Tories and one Liberal in opposing Mr Oxford's statement and referring the matter to the Home Secretary.

"He gave the explanation that he was on confidential business for the Government, which he could not even tell the committee about," said Mr Oxford's spokesman, Mr John Burrow.

They could dismiss Mr Oxford, but the decision would be subject to Home Office approval. Mr Oxford said he was subject to Labour of acting vindictively and out of perversity over the involvement of Mr Oxford's force in the miners' dispute.

Mr Margaret Simey, the committee chairman, said that the incident was the last straw. For some time the committee had not been told anything about the force by Mr Oxford. "There is no personal malice involved," she said, describing Mr Oxford as a proud policeman.

There have been a number of clashes between the Labour-run committee and Mr Oxford, culminating in a recent, secure motion over the force's £5 million bill for overtime during the miners' dispute.

"All he needed to have done was to give me the statement he issued through his deputy. I would have accepted that, and been quite happy to read it at the meeting," said Mrs Simey.

"But there is a refusal by the police to cooperate with an elected lay committee, and it has come to a point that we either yield and rubber stamp everything, or stand on our principles."

It is a classic case of confrontation between a police authority and a chief constable that happens in many authorities. With us it has reached breaking point."

Last night Merseyside's Police Superintendents' Association said: "We deplore this attempt by the Labour group of the police authority to unseat the chief constable, which we see as a further attempt to undermine the office of chief constable and the moral of the force."

Mr Colin Smith, aged 45, a deputy assistant commissioner with the Metropolitan Police, is to be the new chief constable of Thames Valley.

Magistrates also joined the political opposition in backing an unsuccessful Tory move to accept Mr Oxford's statement and refer the matter to the Home Secretary.

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Oil quirk puts trade balance in red

By Christopher Hahn

Economics Editor

Britain's exports in February recovered the buoyant trend at the end of last year, but a sharp adverse swing in oil pushed the overall trade balance into deficit of £270 million for the month.

Department of Trade and Industry figures issued yesterday were dominated by a fall in oil exports and a rise in imports to leave the oil surplus £247 million smaller at £681 million, reflecting the volatility of bulk loadings.

The non-oil trade deficit shrank by £53 million to £951 million on the back of new rises in exports and imports to record levels. Trade officials said that exports seemed to have recovered from the dip in January, while the import trend was fattening out.

The balance of trade in goods and services — the current account — is estimated to have been in surplus by £131 million in February, compared to £341 million in January, though this is based on a stylised estimate for the surplus on "invisibles" like tourism and shipping of £400 million in the month.

Both non-oil exports and imports, excluding erratic like precious stones, reached record monthly levels in value of £5,085 million and £5,944 million respectively. After allowing for price changes, this represented record export volume of 119.1 (1980 = 100) and import volume of 138.2.

On the more reliable method of taking the latest three months' figures together, non-oil export volume, excluding the fluctuating goods, was up 31 per cent over the previous three months while import volume fell by 14 per cent.

Compared with a year before, non-oil export volume was up 11 per cent and the equivalent import volume up 64 per cent. Foreign trade is now making a small positive contribution to overall growth, following the 30 per cent fall in sterling since the beginning of 1981.

Poisoning inquiry

By John Ardill

Labour Correspondent

A series of undercover investigations of food hygiene in hospitals has been commissioned by the General Municipal and Boilermakers' union in a drive to prove that the salmonella outbreak killing 26 people at Stanley Road Hospital in Wakefield is "only the tip of an enormous iceberg."

The plan, announced yesterday by the union's public services officer, Mr John Edmunds, coincides with a new case of salmonella at Stanley Road. Mr Edmunds said: "Getting ill by eating hospital food is, unfortunately, not unusual."

The union's campaign is being backed by the Institution of Environmental Health Officers and the Institution of Professional Civil Servants, representing health and safety inspectors.

Its aim is to bring hospitals, prisons and other government premises fully within the scope of food hygiene and safety regulations. As Crown property they are exempt from food regulation civil action or criminal charges under the Health and Safety at Work Act.

Mr Edmunds said: "We are aware there is a glaring omission in his report about the quality of training doctors receive. Is he aware that they are severely disadvantaged by haphazard arrangements for their postgraduate training when they are often shunted off to unfashionable specialities in the regions and often end up never getting the training they need?"

Mr Meacher called for a radical overhaul of the training system for overseas doctors.

The British Medical Association and the British Dental Association both welcomed the announcement.

Mr John Harvard, secretary of the BMA, said that the association had expressed concern about unrestricted access by overseas doctors and welcomed the decision of the Government to bring overseas doctors into line with other groups.

He said he was glad that bona fide medical students could still come to study in Britain.

The BMA estimates that there are about 700 unemployed junior doctors and that 30 per cent of newly qualified doctors have spent some time on the dole. The department disputes these figures. The cost of training a doctor is estimated at about £95,000.

Police were last night hunting the sadists who drove sharp pieces of metal through a dog's paws to pin it to the railway line at Kewley Regis, West Midlands.

The rope was knotted around its muzzle and a choke chain cut into its neck as the Alsatian cross-breed struggled to get free.

The attackers, who intended it to die were disappointed as a train driver managed to stop before reaching the dog who was bleeding heavily.

Later, after one of the worst cases of cruelty seen by the RSPCA, the dog, Sultan, was returned to his owner and is recovering.

Mr Herbert Daily, aged 27, said at his home in Smethwick, West Midlands: "I'd like to get my hands on whoever did this to him. Luckily he's tough and he's going to be all right."

Lady Trumpington elevated

By Ian Aitken

Political Editor

THE second most formidable woman in political life yesterday obtained ministerial office for the first time. The Baroness Trumpington, has been appointed health service spokesperson in the House of Lords.

Lady Trumpington's elevation arises from the resignation of the Earl of Avon as spokesman for the Environment Department in the Upper House.

Lord Avon, son of the former Tory Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary, Anthony Eden, was due to conduct the Government's bill to abolish the Greater London Council.

The measure, which also involves abolishing metropolitan councils north of Watford, is due to receive its second reading in the Lords immediately after Easter.

Lord Elton, formerly a minister in the Home Office, will now handle the abolition bill. He is expected to be given the most intensive

course of training in the complexities of the legislation between now and Easter.

But it is the consequential appointments which have brought Lady Trumpington to ministerial office. Lord Elton is to be replaced as Home Office spokesman in the Lords by Lord Glenarthur, who was formerly the Department of Health and Social Security spokesman.

Lady Trumpington is to take over from him in that role. Baroness Trumpington has won a considerable following

in the Lords during her period as a whip. One of her tasks was to ensure that Tory peers were aware that their votes were required, even as they tried to escape from the Palace of Westminster.

She became known as the Keeper of the Gate as she sat beside the exit normally used by noble lords seeking to go home. Many were deterred by her 6ft stature and vigorous voice.

Lord Elton — intensive training course

Miners reject levy in ballot

Continued from page one

union's areas had given several reasons why miners who supported their sacked colleagues did not favour a compulsory national levy.

There was a feeling in the coalfields that to establish a national levy could be misinterpreted by the Government and the NCB as a sign that the union was prepared to back down on the crucial issue of reinstatement for those who had been dismissed.

Mr Heathfield said that "our members and their families" saw reinstatement as a campaigning issue which required the total support of the labour movement.

A number of areas and branches were already exploring ways in which they could support the families of sacked colleagues. The national union was convinced it could raise sufficient funds to sustain its members until it won that reinstatement.

But Mr Heathfield's comments could not hide the fact that the ballot was badly organised. It was never properly launched by Mr Scargill after the decision to hold a ballot was taken by the executive three weeks ago.

Mr Scargill hardly mentioned it, and there were no well prepared follow-up meet-

ings to carry the message to the rank and file.

Mr Ted McKay, the North Wales miners' leader, said yesterday that it was deplorable that Mr Scargill should have been away. "We have the result of the 50p levy ballot and have got a tremendous job of reconstruction within the union. There is a division of bitterness and I think the president should be in Britain trying to rebuild the NUM."

Mr Roy Lynk, acting general secretary of the Nottingham and just elected to the national executive, said that it was a rebuke for the policies which had been pursued by the leadership. He suggested it showed that the executive had proved how badly out of touch the leadership was with the rank and file.

Individual area figures were not released yesterday, but it is known that South Wales, Scotland and Kent all recorded a vote in support of the levy. Yorkshire, Lancashire, the Midlands and Northumberland all voted against the levy.

The NCB has reinstated 230 of the 900 miners who it sacked during the dispute. Mr Lynk is to contest the post of NUM president at the annual conference, at this year's annual conference.

Joseph tells councils to check on teachers

Continued from page one

schools, the paper says, curriculum are not well planned or effectively put into practice. In about half the primary schools and virtually all secondary schools there is excessive direction by teachers, with too few opportunities for the pupils to learn by themselves.

In about 20 per cent of secondary schools there is the serious problem of teachers having to take a subject outside their competence.

AS-level examinations have been opposed by most teachers' organisations, but the white paper says that Sir Keith Thimbleton, who heads the support of universities, higher education institutions, and employers.

The universities were willing to recognise the new qualification in admission procedures.

Better Schools: Command 9489, HMSO, price £6.40.

but the Government does not envisage any compulsion on A-level students to take AS-level courses.

Legislation is promised, as soon as the legislative programme permits, to increase the number of parents on school governing bodies to provide equal numbers of parents and local education authority governors.

In his earlier green paper, Sir Keith proposed that parents should have a majority on each governing body.

On the question of resources, the white paper comments: "The actual level of services local education authorities can provide will depend crucially on their ability to contain costs, in particular pay."

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Police hold 239 in demo

Continued from page one

could provide the first major crisis for the uneasy multiparty in the new three house constitution.

The Government has blamed the rioting in the eastern Cape on political deadlock between whites and blacks and says it is up to moderate black leaders to take the initiative in opening negotiations.

The state-controlled Radio South Africa said yesterday in a commentary reflecting Government thinking that the deadlock lay in the refusal of most blacks to take part in constitutional forums.

A judicial inquiry into the shootings opens today at Uitenhage.

Last Thursday was the anniversary of the 1990 Sharpeville killings, when police shot dead 69 black anti-apartheid protesters in a township south of Johannesburg.

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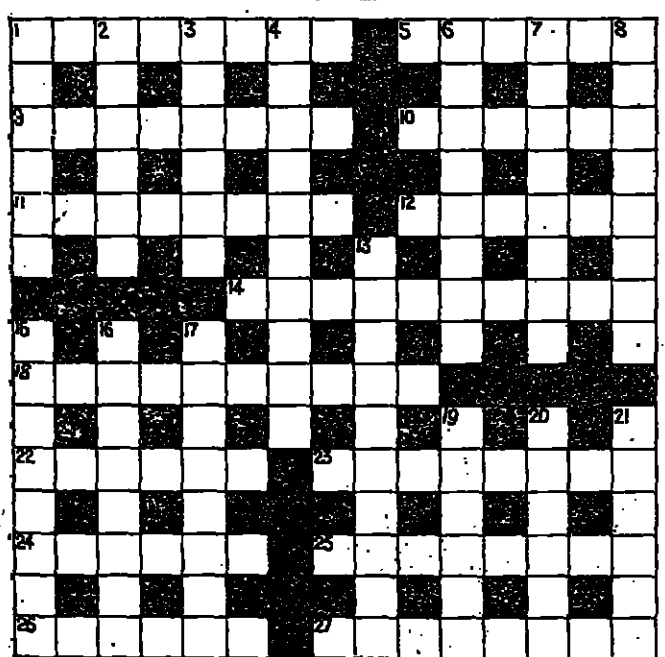
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GUARDIAN CROSSWORD 17,195

ALTAIR



ACROSS

- 1 Scorer? (8).
- 2 Top Russian beheaded in book by Frenchman (8).
- 3 Practise on ducks outside rough hut or shed (8).
- 4 Schoolmaster in river? (8).
- 5 Fanny? (8).
- 6 Inflammatory action of two kinds of gin and 17 (8).
- 7 Sozzled in Budapest! On Edam? (8).
- 8 1-c is indelicate, backward and — externally — strong smelling (10).
- 9 Our local governing body. Conservative, taken by outraged Chile to United Nations (3, 7).
- 10 Agreement? A French one's going ahead (6).
- 11 Deprived American 1-c died before Lawrence died (8).

DOWN

- 1 About to nip aboard 1-c. (6).
- 2 Dull part of Sunday service (6).
- 3 City with nothing left to love? (6).
- 4 Make bloody US engine an security (10).
- 5 Advance from 1-c. (8).
- 6 Dry state of vessel finishing off fish collected by 1-c. (8).
- 7 This child's grateful sea study retouched? (8).
- 8 Plant raising skill shown by Princess: in small doses requiring a ... (10).
- 9 Great effort to manoeuvre legs across fruit basket (8).
- 10 Take 1 from 10, pal — after the first of December (8).
- 11 1-c. needs oxygen after battle (8).
- 12 I was first up — before you saw me and 1-c. (6).
- 13 Filter — from 1-c. (6).
- 14 David Lester's most inactive (6).

CROSSWORD SOLUTION 17,184

ACROSS
1 SCORER
2 TOP
3 PRACTISE
4 FANNY
5 INFLAMMATORY
6 SOZZLED
7 BUDAPEST
8 1-C
9 CONSERVATIVE
10 AGREEMENT
11 DEPRIVED
12 1-C
13 1-C
14 1-C
15 1-C
16 1-C
17 1-C
18 1-C
19 1-C
20 1-C
21 1-C
22 1-C
23 1-C
24 1-C
25 1-C

THE WEATHER

Cold with showers

AN area of low pressure in the North Sea will move slowly E. A ridge of high pressure will move W from the Atlantic. A cold air mass will extend across all areas.

London, E Anglia, SE and E England: Foggy with rain or drizzle at first, turning to rain. Wind W to WSW, 10 to 15 mph. Max temp 5 to 7°C (41 to 45°F).

3 Wales: Rainy, cloudy. Sunny intervals. Wind W to WSW, 10 to 15 mph. Max temp 5 to 7°C (41 to 45°F).

4 Ireland: Rainy, cloudy. Sunny intervals. Wind W to WSW, 10 to 15 mph. Max temp 5 to 7°C (41 to 45°F).

5 Scotland: Rainy, cloudy. Sunny intervals. Wind W to WSW, 10 to 15 mph. Max temp 5 to 7°C (41 to 45°F).

6 Northern Ireland: Rainy, cloudy. Sunny intervals. Wind W to WSW, 10 to 15 mph. Max temp 5 to 7°C (41 to 45°F).

7 South Wales: Rainy, cloudy. Sunny intervals. Wind W to WSW, 10 to 15 mph. Max temp 5 to 7°C (41 to 45°F).

8 London: Rainy, cloudy. Sunny intervals. Wind W to WSW, 10 to 15 mph. Max temp 5 to 7°C (41 to 45°F).

9 Manchester: Rainy, cloudy. Sunny intervals. Wind W to WSW, 10 to 15 mph. Max temp 5 to 7°C (41 to 45°F).

10 Birmingham: Rainy, cloudy. Sunny intervals. Wind W to WSW, 10 to 15 mph. Max temp 5 to 7°C (41 to 45°F).

11 Liverpool: Rainy, cloudy. Sunny intervals. Wind W to WSW, 10 to 15 mph. Max temp 5 to 7°C (41 to 45°F).

AROUND THE WORLD

Location	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Pressure
London	5	W 10	Cloudy	1015
Edinburgh	4	W 10	Cloudy	1015
Belfast	5	W 10	Cloudy	1015
Cardiff	5	W 10	Cloudy	1015
Birmingham	5	W 10	Cloudy	1015
Manchester	5	W 10	Cloudy	1015
Liverpool	5	W 10	Cloudy	1015
Nottingham	5	W 10	Cloudy	1015
Sheffield	5	W 10	Cloudy	1015
Leeds	5	W 10	Cloudy	1015
Bradford	5	W 10	Cloudy	1015
York	5	W 10	Cloudy	1015
Doncaster	5	W 10	Cloudy	1015
Sheff Hallam	5	W 10	Cloudy	1015
Wakefield	5	W 10	Cloudy	1015
Thames Valley	5	W 10	Cloudy	1015
Reading	5	W 10	Cloudy	1015
Southampton	5	W 10	Cloudy	1015
Portsmouth	5	W 10	Cloudy	1015
Weymouth	5	W 10	Cloudy	1015
Bournemouth	5	W 10	Cloudy	1015
Exeter	5	W 10	Cloudy	1015
Plymouth	5	W 10	Cloudy	1015
Cardiff	5	W 10	Cloudy	1015
Belfast	5	W 10	Cloudy	1015
London	5	W 10	Cloudy	1015

AROUND BRITAIN

Location	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Pressure
London	5	W 10	Cloudy	1015
Edinburgh	4	W 10	Cloudy	1015
Belfast	5	W 10	Cloudy	1015
Cardiff	5	W 10	Cloudy	1015
Birmingham	5	W 10	Cloudy	1015
Manchester	5	W 10	Cloudy	1015
Liverpool	5	W 10	Cloudy	1015
Nottingham	5	W 10	Cloudy	1015
Sheffield	5	W 10	Cloudy	1015
Leeds	5	W 10	Cloudy	1015
Bradford	5	W 10	Cloudy	1015
York	5	W 10	Cloudy	1015
Doncaster	5	W 10	Cloudy	1015
Sheff Hallam	5	W 10	Cloudy	1015
Wakefield	5	W 10	Cloudy	1015
Thames Valley	5	W 10	Cloudy	1015
Reading	5	W 10	Cloudy	1015
Southampton	5	W 10	Cloudy	1015
Portsmouth	5	W 10	Cloudy	1015
Weymouth	5	W 10	Cloudy	1015
Bournemouth	5	W 10	Cloudy	1015
Exeter	5	W 10	Cloudy	1015
Plymouth	5	W 10	Cloudy	1015
Cardiff	5	W 10	Cloudy	1015
Belfast	5	W 10	Cloudy	1015
London	5	W 10	Cloudy	1015

WEST COAST

Location	Temp	Wind	Cloud</
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